

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2014
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:08 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 Razzo: Present
Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Approval of Minutes

Formal Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2014, *Work Session, Closed Work Session, & Formal Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2014

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes to all
Councilman Blass: Yes for October 27 Minutes; Abstains from all November 10 Minutes.
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes for October 27 Minutes; Abstains from all November 10 Minutes.
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes for October 27 Minutes; Abstains from all November 10 Minutes.
Councilman Pierpont: Yes to all
Council President Razzo: Yes to all
Mayor Johnson _____

*All minutes from November 10, 2014 will be voted on again at the December 8 Formal Meeting of Mayor and Council due to the lack of a majority approval.

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported that the hiring process for a new patrolman for the Pitman Police Department has begun.

The department has applied for a grant from the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program, administered by the New Jersey Department of Criminal Justice, in the amount of \$26,000.00. This grant is to be used to help offset the salary of a police officer. The department has also received approval from the county to participate in the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety Holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over program.

Patrolman Barbetta will be attending the Field Officer Training class at the Gloucester County Police Academy. Sgt. Owens and Sgt. Zander will be attending Internal Affairs training on December 3 and December 4, and almost all Borough officers have attended the ebola/infectious disease training course.

The Police Department will suspend the overnight parking restriction in the Borough beginning November 24 through December 1, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

K9 Ranger will be sworn in at the next meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held at 8:00 p.m. on December 8, 2014. Also at that meeting, a proclamation will be presented to a returning veteran, and the 2014 Police Officer of the Year will be announced.

Reports from the Pitman Fire Company show that the calls the companies responded to over the last two weeks have all been minor events.

The Pitman Fire Company volunteers and Police Department personnel will once again lend a hand to the Pitman Parade Committee on November 29, for the Borough's annual Santa Parade which will begin on Lambs Road at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported the following statistics for the McCowan Memorial Library for the month of October.

Visitors to the library: 6,496 people

Books in circulation: 3,788

Visitors signed on to the internet: 535

Community room functions: 21

Story Time attendance: 476 children

Council President Razze – Council President Razze reported that the Borough's annual Santa Parade will take place on Saturday, November 29. Group line up begins at 4:00 p.m. at the Pitman United Methodist Church, and the parade begins at 5:00 p.m. This year there will be fifty-six groups participating, along with five paid bands. The "No Parking" signs will be put up along both sides of Broadway around 1:00 p.m., advising that no parking will be permitted between 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Council President Razze thanked the Police Department for their assistance with this, and other duties associated with the parade.

Council President Razze stated that earlier this evening he attended the monthly Joint Insurance Fund meeting, where he received a check in the amount of \$4,829.00 for a portion of safety incentive and safety budget money. Regarding the 2015 JIF budget, the Borough will be facing an approximate two percent increase in our property and casualty assessment.

Council President Razze concluded by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

Public Works Manager Steve Alexander continues to recover from his recent knee surgery. We wish him well and do not expect him back to work for another week or two.

After the level of Alcyon Lake was lowered for the winter, our Water and Sewer Division conducted an inspection of the gate(s) and dam for a few surface cracks, and seepage was noted in the dam wall. Our engineer was notified and inspected the dam. A recommendation by the engineer was made to contact a company that specializes in dam construction to provide a

detailed inspection of the damage and to make recommendations for repairs. While the engineer did not deem this as an emergency, we are waiting for the inspection and repair recommendation.

Leaf pick up continues at a frenzied pace. Last week we had two of the three machines go down for repair. The two machines were back in service the very next day, and our Highway Division has been working overtime to get caught up.

The trash numbers for the period of November 10 - November 21 are as follows:
Nine loads of trash totaling 107 tons
Eleven loads of recycling totaling 52 tons
Fifteen loads of brush were collected
Two loads of bulk trash were collected

Finally the Public Works Water and Sewer Division employees assisted in putting up the Christmas tree and lights in Ballard Park.

Speaking of Christmas, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce purchased new lights for the uptown, and an army of volunteers were busy fluffing the garland and stringing lights and hopefully volunteers are out on the street hanging the lights across Broadway tonight. Unfortunately, the new lights that were purchased this year do not fit, so they will be returned and the old lights will be used for this year.

At the last Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce meeting, Ms. Lisa Morgey was elected President, and Mr. John Fitzpatrick was elected Vice President for 2015.

Fourth Friday celebration is this Friday, November 28, with the usual compliment of music, cars, and entertainment along Broadway. This month the Chamber is sponsoring a window decorating contest, so please come out and enjoy the evening of family fun, and, as always, the Chamber reminds us to stay, dine, stroll, and shop local.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee reported that a goodwill tax payment of \$11,000 was received by the Borough from ELWYN New Jersey, the owner of three tax exempt properties in Pitman.

The Borough's annual Municipal Alliance Senior Citizen Luncheon was this past Thursday at Terra Nova in Sewell. Councilwoman Higbee stated that although she was unable to attend, over ninety people participated in the luncheon and enjoyed the speakers.

On November 22, the Pitman High School boy's soccer team performed a cleanup at Shertel Park and Sunset Auditorium.

Councilwoman Higbee stated that she has reviewed the reports for the 2014 tax appeals. Seventy people filed appeals with the county which resulted in adjustments decreasing the tax amounts by \$77,447. Nine people have filed appeals with the state, which resulted in \$16,000.00 in tax credits to the homeowners.

Councilwoman Kelley – Councilwoman Kelley reported that the Economic Development Committee had their monthly meeting on November 20. Fundraising was discussed for the proposed Theater Avenue Park.

The EDC subcommittee has researched the cost of an electronic message board to replace the

existing one at the corner of W. Holly Avenue and Broadway. They are also prepared to make a recommendation to Council for the parking signs, and would like to discuss this at the next Work Session meeting on December 8, 2014. The final item for discussion was what seems to be the confusion associated with the BYOB laws. It is the recommendation of the EDC that another letter be sent out to local businesses clarifying all points of the law as it pertains to them. The next meeting of the EDC will be on December 18, at 7:00 p.m.

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board met on November 17. No formal action was taken at that meeting. Their next meeting is December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Green Team members, and Pitman High School students, Julia Sanders and Dominica Castro, along with Councilwoman Kelley met with School Board Administrators, Dr. McAleer and Mrs. Roncace, at the superintendent's office to discuss getting the school system involved in the work of the Green Team. The Green Team will hold their monthly meeting tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

New Business

Ordinance No. 22, 2014 – An Ordinance of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Acquisition of Real Property in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$200,000 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 \$190,000 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Ordinance No. 23, 2014 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, Repealing Bond Ordinance No. 12, 2014 in Its' Entirety

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 163, 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

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 164, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Transfer of Real Estate Tax

Overpayments

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 165, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office-2014 Holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over DWI Saturation Patrol Campaign

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 166, 2014 – 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: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 167, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of a Contract and Agreement Between the Borough of Pitman and the Society to Protect Animals/Bruce Barry for the Execution of the 2015 Dog and Cat Census

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 168, 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: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

***Resolution No. 169, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Transfer of Ownership of a 2002 Horton Ambulance to the County of Gloucester Pursuant to an Interlocal Services Agreement**

As a result of discussion in the Work Session, this Resolution will be tabled, and will be reconsidered for approval at the next meeting of Mayor and Council scheduled for December 8, 2014.

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

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 _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Grove Christmas Concert

Applicant: Friends of the Grove

Date: December 12, 2014; 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

December 13, 2014; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium

Contact Person: Michelle LaPlante

Discussion resulted in Council President Razze making the Motion to amend the Event Permit Application to include the use of the Museum for restroom facilities and waiting area for the musicians who will be performing. Second: Blass

Additional discussion resulted in Council President Razze again amending the Event Permit Application to remove the request to use a form of plastic wrap to cover the lattice board in an effort to keep the facility warm.

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 _____

***Event: Christmas Tree Sale**

Applicant: Boy Scout Troop 55; Cub Scout Pack 218

Date: December 6, 13, 20, 2014; 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

December 7, 14, 21, 2014; 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park

Contact Person: Ned Cowgill

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 _____

*Approved contingent upon the applicant providing a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Event: Monthly Soccer Assoc. Meetings

Applicant: Pitman Soccer Association

Date: Monthly; every third Wednesday (See attached)

Location: Borough Hall Council Chambers

Contact Person: Krista Wehlen

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 _____

*Approved contingent upon the applicant providing the proper Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:50 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell

Borough Clerk/Administrator