

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2014
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag

Councilman Paul 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: Absent
Councilwoman Higbee: Present
Councilman Pierpont: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Formal Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2014

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Committee Reports

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that a tree trimming company came out last week to trim and shape the trees along Broadway. Thirty trees were trimmed in all.

Council President Razze – Council President Razze read following report:

Our fall sports are doing very well. Our basketball program has started, with an open gym time on Monday and Thursday evenings. It is for third to fifth grade children, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and then 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. It meets in the Middle School gym, and everyone is welcome to come out. There is a registration form on our Facebook page and also in the lobby of Borough Hall. There is a \$10.00 fee for the five week program, and participants come when they can. It is run like a pickup game, with a small amount of instruction included.

The Santa Parade will be on November 29 at 5:00 p.m., and all are welcome to come out and help organize the acts on the day of the parade. It will begin at the Pitman United Methodist Church on Lambs Road and end at Ballard Avenue. The deadline for participants to submit their applications is November 14, 2014.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

I am extremely excited to report that with very strict and time consuming efforts we have received a positive inspection of our compost facility located at the Public Works Yard.

As some of you may recall, two years ago we were grossly out of compliance and in danger of receiving fines from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Alexander and his staff worked very hard to correct the issues and operate our facility within the guidelines of the law.

Leaf season has begun and will continue through mid-December. Please keep twigs and sticks out of leaf piles and leave at least one foot of clearance from the curb to allow proper drainage. The collection schedule can be found on our website.

Over this past weekend a sink hole once again opened up on Spruce Avenue as a result of falling storm sewer piping. Our original estimate to replace the storm sewer in question is just over \$200,000. We currently have \$50,000 allocated for storm sewer improvements and repairs.

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to meet on October 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pitman Manor Auditorium.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee reported that on October 7, the employee Wellness Day was held in Borough Hall. She thanked Administrator O’Donnell for setting this up.

Councilwoman Higbee stated that last evening, she and Memorabilia Committee Chairperson, Jane McCausland, hosted the Red Bank Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Pitman Memorabilia Museum. This chapter of the DAR was incorporated in the 1930’s, and is based in Pitman.

The October 9th meeting of the Historic Commission was cancelled, and has been rescheduled for October 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Higbee reported that on September 26, she attended the Department Supervisor’s meeting in Borough Hall. She said that she found the meeting to be very informative, and that it was a pleasure to attend.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 20, 2014 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Repealing Chapter 3-26 Entitled “Curfew” 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: Absent	Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes	Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Yes	Council President Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____	

New 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

First Reading

Motion: Pierpont Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Absent Councilman Blass: Yes

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

Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Council President Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 146, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Transfer of Real Estate Tax Overpayments

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 147, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 148, 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: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 149, 2014 – 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 Yard Work

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 150, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Endorsing the 2014 Best Practices Inventory for the State of New Jersey

*This resolution was removed from the agenda. It will be on the agenda for adoption at the October 27, 2014 Formal Meeting of Mayor and Council.

Resolution No. 151, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Release of the Maintenance Guarantee and Escrow Funds Provided by React Environmental Professional Services Group, Inc. (REPSG) Submitted for a Project Affecting a Parcel Known as Theater Avenue on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Absent

Councilman Blass: Yes

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

Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Council President Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 152, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Steven Snyder to the Borough of Pitman Recreation Commission

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Absent
Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes, Abstain # 29336
Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Council President Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Christmas Parade

Applicant: Pitman Parade Committee

Date: November 29, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Broadway from Lambs Road to Ballard Park

Contact Person: Michael Razze

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

***Event:** Youth Group Amazing Race

Applicant: Fellowship Bible Church

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

*Approved contingent upon the applicant signing a Facilities Use Form for the Grove Auditorium, and the collection of the \$25.00 security deposit.

Public Portion

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney thanked Councilman Blass for arranging to have the trees trimmed along Broadway. He expressed his displeasure at the decorations that have been placed in Sunrise Park at East and South Avenues in the Grove. He stated that the triangle is owned by the Borough and that the individuals decorating it do not have permission from Council to do so. He said that he particularly objected to the American flag being stapled to one of the trees, and reminded Council that nails and staples can compromise the bark of a tree leaving it susceptible to insect infestation and disease.

Motion to Close the Public Portion: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Blass

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator