

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2014
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:16 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

Councilwoman Higbee

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

Councilman Blass: Present

Councilwoman Higbee: Present

Councilwoman Kelley: Present

Councilman Pierpont Present

Council President Razzo: Present

Mayor Johnson: Present

Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Formal Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2014

Motion: Blass

Second: Razzo

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain to Closed Minutes, Yes to Formal and Work Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Kelley: Abstain

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Following discussion between the Solicitor and the Borough Clerk, the Roll Call to approve the Minutes of all the meetings from October 14, 2014 was repeated.

Motion: Blass

Second: Razzo

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain to Closed Minutes, Yes to Formal and Work Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Kelley: Abstain

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson: Yes

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported that the Police Department has received their new display board trailer. This equipment will alert drivers to their speed, and may also be used

as a message board for emergency information or public service announcements.

Councilman Austin also reported the following Police Department activity:

- On October 16, members of the Pitman Police Department participated in an active shooter drill at the Pitman Middle School.
- Chief Zimmerman attended the Law Enforcement School Superintendent Meeting.
- The Police Department recently arrested 26 individuals for illegal drug activity.
- Ptlm. Parker and K-9 Ranger are in week 10 of their training at the academy.
- Sgt. Zander attend Glock School on November 4, 2014.
- Ptlm. Barbetta will be attending the FTO Officer training class on November 24, 2014.
- On November 1, the Haunted House on Esplanade Avenue will present all donations that were collected to the K9 Trust Fund.

OEM Director Jim Foley will be conducting a second training session in the near future, and the Fire Department has had very little activity lately.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that the McCowan Memorial Library loaned 2,548 items to visitors of the library, and 781 items in reciprocal loans.

A tree was removed in the alley that runs between Webb and Fourth Avenues.

Council President Razze – Council President Razze stated that the fall sports programs will be concluding within the next three to four weeks.

The Borough's Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, November 29th at 5:00 p.m. The deadline for participant registrations is November 14.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

Last week, we were notified that the Borough would receive a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to aid in our recycling efforts and operation.

Our Public Works Highway Department completed the stone project in the Grove parking areas and alleyways. Big Alley was the last to get done just last week, with a fill of crushed concrete to fill in the pot holes and a thin layer of 3/4 inch driveway stone. They also finished up in the parking area between Third and Fourth Avenues. We have some stone remaining which we will use to address any issues that may arise over the next couple of months.

The Highway Department was also out on Carew Avenue last week repairing curbing that was damaged by snow plows last winter.

In an effort to keep costs down, we have hauled multiple loads of mulch from our Public Works yard to area farmers. By doing this, we do not have to pay for removal and disposal of excess mulch.

Collection totals for the period of October 14 - October 24:

Ten loads of trash collected totaling 121 tons

Ten loads of recycling totaling 47 tons

Thirty loads of brush and five loads of bulk trash were collected.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee reported that \$246,501.84 in tax payments were

collected in September.

Councilwoman Higbee reported that on October 22, she attended the Clean Communities Regional Workshop at Riverwinds in West Deptford, and that this past weekend there were Clean Communities clean ups at Glen Lake, Lambs Road, the Grove area, and Shertel Park. Another clean-up is scheduled for this weekend at Lost Lake Run, near Alcyon Boulevard.

Councilwoman Higbee stated that on October 16, she attended the Historic Commission meeting where two applications were reviewed; one for a sign and door, and the other for a handicap ramp.

Councilwoman Higbee concluded by stating that tonight Council will be voting to accept the Borough's Best Practices Inventory. This report is submitted to the State of New Jersey and is used to determine the amount of state aid the Borough will receive in 2015.

Councilwoman Kelley

Councilwoman Kelley stated that the Planning & Zoning Board meeting held on October 20 was a relatively quiet meeting with the most discussion given to the wording change of the fence ordinance. Also discussed at that meeting was an ordinance for solar panels. Their next meeting will take place on November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The Green Team had their first meeting on September 23, with nine members in attendance. At that meeting, members elected officers, established a regular meeting date, and discussed different activities around the Borough that will qualify for certification points. The second meeting was held on October 23. At that meeting, Patrick McDevitt, chairperson of the Monroe Township Green Team was our guest speaker. He was extremely helpful in providing direction for our next steps and brought along some additional resources for us to use. He was able to provide the Green Team with websites and free seminars. The team is still accepting new members. The only requirement is to be excited about making Pitman green and sustainable. The next meeting will be on November 25, at 7:00 p.m.

The most recent update from Chuck Appleby regarding the status of the former Armory:

- They are planning to submit the RAR/AOC specific Remedial Action Outcome in mid-November.
- The CEA well sampling will be done in November
- Perform a Permit by Rule post injection sampling (in conjunction with November CEA sampling)

The Borough's Board of Health did not meet during the month of October due to a lack of business.

Councilman Razzo thanked Peach Country for their donation to the Pitman Soccer Association of soil for the soccer fields. One hundred cubic yards of soil was purchased by the Association, and fifty cubic yards was donated by Peach Country.

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

Councilwoman Kelley explained that as a result of discussion during the ordinance review by the Combined Planning & Zoning Board, additional changes needed to be done to the language of the ordinance as it relates to the Historic Guidelines. As a result, the ordinance will be re-introduced

for first reading at this time.

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

The Borough Clerk announced that the second reading will take place at the next regular meeting of Mayor and Council scheduled for November 10 at 8:00 p.m.

New Business

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

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 _____

Resolution No. 153, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Willcof Roofing & Construction for the Municipal Building Roof Replacement Project

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 154, 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: Michele LaPlante, Historic Commission Member

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 156, 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 Overpayments

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 _____

Resolution No. 157, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Purchase of a Ricoh VoIP Telephone System and Related Infrastructure and Installation in Accordance With a National Cooperative Purchasing Contract With U. S. Communities Offered by Vendor, Ricoh-USA

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes; Abstains from # 29429
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Event Permit Applications

*Event: Christmas Display
Santa House
Trolley Rides

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date: November 8 – January 10, 2014

Location: Ballard Park, Broadway

Contact Person: Ron Brown

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Raffle License Applications

Organization: Memorial School HSA

Contact Person: Stephanie Tartaglia

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2014

Time: 50/50 Raffle: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Memorial School

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Kelley

Second: Austin

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Roger Pyffer, 524 Hudson Avenue - In regard to the abandoned house on Hudson Avenue, Mr. Pyffer asked who is the owner of record, and if the real estate taxes on the property are current? He also asked if the Borough has looked into removing the car from the driveway.

Councilman Austin stated that the car is registered to the deceased, and that in order to remove the car, a junk title would have to be acquired. He said the Code Enforcement Officer has been out to the property and has inspected the car.

Mayor Johnson stated that the property is owned by the children of the deceased, and Solicitor Duffield said that the mortgage lender is currently paying the real estate taxes on the property.

Chief Zimmerman said that the Public Safety Office has spoken to the children, and they are not willing to take on the obligation of this property.

Mayor Johnson stated that the Gloucester County Board of Health was out to inspect the exterior of the property for rodents, and that it was cleared. He said that the only thing that can be done is to wait for the bank to take over the property and get it cleaned up.

Mr. Pyffer concluded by asking if there has been a resolution to the robbery at knife point that occurred in his neighborhood recently. Chief Zimmerman replied that the incident is still under investigation.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:55 p.m.

Second: Blass

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:55 p.m.

Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator