

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2015
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:10 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 2015, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 4, 2015.

Roll Call

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session Minutes and Formal Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2015

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Abstains from voting on Work Session Minutes; Votes to approve Formal Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported that Sgt. Owens, of the Pitman Police Department, has successfully completed a supervisor training course provided by the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Association. Patrolman Barbetta will be participating in the Gloucester County Unity Bike Tour from May 9 - May 12, 2015.

The Pitman Fire Department responded to the oil tanker explosion that occurred today in Westville Grove. They were placed on standby at the scene in the event their assistance was needed.

Councilman Austin stated that it was business as usual for the Borough's Office of Emergency Management and the Environmental Commission, with nothing new to report.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported the corrected statistics for the McCowan Memorial Library for the 2014 operating year. The number of visitors totaled 77,595, with the total number of articles in circulation totaling 41,916.

Councilman Blass stated that he attended the Borough’s Board of Education meeting last Wednesday night. The Board presented their budget which is almost two million dollars above their allowable budget. Councilman Blass said that the Board has some budget cuts to perform, and he encouraged residents to attend the next board meeting and to take an active part in the discussion portion of the budget preparation process.

Councilman Razze – Councilman Razze reported that the Economic Development Committee met last Thursday, and that the group has formed smaller subcommittees to focus on areas such as design, promotion, etc. The committee will be acting tonight by reappointing their paid intern for a six month period. This past month she has worked to update our parking area map and our map of available commercial properties in the Borough.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee announced that the Borough will host a Shredding Event on March 21, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon. This event, which is funded with money from the 2014 Clean Communities Grant, will be held in the parking lot behind Borough Hall, and is open to residents of Pitman.

Last Thursday night the Historic Commission met, and six applications were reviewed. One was denied because it did not meet Historic Commission guidelines and requirements, one was withdrawn by the applicant at the meeting, and one was denied by the Commission. Their next meeting will be on March 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Area clean ups that are sponsored by the 2014 Clean Communities Grant are scheduled for April 20th at Walls School, and March 16th at Kindle School.

Councilwoman Higbee reported that Council held another budget meeting during the Work Session Meeting tonight. The proposed budgets for the Combined Planning & Zoning Board, Uniform Construction Code Office, Public Property, and the Economic Development Committee were submitted and reviewed by Council.

Council President Kelley – Council President Kelley reported that the Borough’s Green Team will meet this Thursday in Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Kelley also reported that she, Mayor Johnson, and Clerk O’Donnell met with Chuck Appleby of the Environmental Management Branch of the National Guard to discuss the progress of the remedial action being performed at the former National Guard Armory on Delsea Drive. The contaminant issue, treatment method, and the results of the treatment was discussed. Mr. Appleby reported that remediation of this site will be an ongoing issue for the Borough for the next several years.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2, 2015 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Establishing a Joint Municipal Court for the Borough of Pitman, the Township of Mantua, the Borough of Woodbury Heights and the Borough of Wenonah, and Approving a Joint Municipal Court Agreement for the Operation of the Mantua Joint Municipal Court

First Reading

Motion: Austin
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Absent
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Ordinance No. 3, 2015 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Repealing Chapter 2 Entitled “Administration”, Article IV Entitled “Municipal Court” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Austin
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Absent
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Resolution No. 50, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Release of the Maintenance Bond Provided by Asphalt Paving Corporation Relating to the Reconstruction of Hudson Avenue and a Portion of Elsie Avenue Project in the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County

Motion: Higbee
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Absent
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Resolution No. 51, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee and Maintenance Guarantee Escrow Funds, and a Street Opening Permit Fee Provided by William and Debbie Edwards Submitted for a Project Affecting a Parcel Known as 437 Poinsett Avenue, Block 178 Lot 32, on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Higbee
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Absent
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Resolution No. 53, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Advertisement and Procurement of Proposals for a Concession Agreement for Advertising Space on the Borough’s Municipal Sign

Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Absent

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

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 54, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Melissa Eaton as Administrative Assistant to the Borough of Pitman Economic Development Committee

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 55, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Closed Meeting

The general nature of the subjects to be discussed shall be:

Personnel Matters: Employee Leave of Absence Request

Personnel Matters: Job Performance Review

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstains from voting to approve #30007 & #30020

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Raffle Permit Application

Applicant: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Prize: 2015 Harley-Davidson FXSB “Break Out” Motorcycle

Date: September 7, 2015

Time: 10:00 p.m.

Location: Carnival; Linden & Edgemoor Avenues

Contact Person: Jeff Penuel

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Higbee

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Kelley

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Blass
Time: 8:28 p.m.

Second: Austin

Motion to return to an open meeting: Kelley
Time: 9:25 p.m.

Second: Higbee

All members of Council approve by voice vote to return to an Open Meeting.

The following action was taken by Council upon returning to an open meeting as a result of discussion in the closed meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Blass to approve a personal leave of absence for Public Works Water and Sewer Division employee Craig Kier, pursuant to Article XIII, Section 5 of the Labor Agreement between the Borough of Pitman and Teamsters Local Union No. 676. The leave of absence was approved from February 19, 2015 through March 9, 2015.

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

Adjournment

Motion: Kelley
Time: 9:27 p.m.

Second: Higbee

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator