

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2015
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:01p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

Councilman Razze

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: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Proclamation

Mayor Johnson read the Proclamation endorsing February as American Heart Month

Approval of Minutes

Council Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015 & Budget Meeting of January 21, 2015

Motion: Austin

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Razze: Abstains to January 21, 2015 Meeting; Approves January 12, 2015 Meeting
Mayor Johnson _____

Work Session, Council Meeting, & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2015

Motion: Kelley

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Blass: Abstains to Work Session Minutes; Approves Formal & Closed Minutes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Committee Reports

Council President Kelley – Council President Kelley announced that the next meeting of the Planning & Zoning Board will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, due to the President's Day

holiday. The Borough's Green Team has applied for a \$2,000.00 grant which, if received, will provide operating funds to help get the newly formed group up and running.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee reported that the Memorabilia Museum was open for a private visit on February 2, 2015. She also reported that the proposed 2015 budget for the McCowan Memorial Library was reviewed in the Work Session Meeting this evening. The Public Works Department's proposed budget will be discussed at a meeting on Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Higbee spoke briefly on the good work that is done by the American Heart Association, and in particular the progress that has been made in treating congenital heart diseases and defects.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report: The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce has started a "Go Fund Me" campaign for the Theatre Avenue project. More information can be found on the Chamber's website at www.uptown.pitman.com

The next Chamber of Commerce meeting is scheduled for February 17, at 7:00 p.m., and as always the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone to Stay, Stroll, Eat, and Shop local.

The Water and Sewer Division of the Public Works Department has been busy inspecting storm drains throughout the Borough. Drains that need minor repair and maintenance will be noted, and will be scheduled for the repairs, and for cleaning.

Mr. Matt Paden, the Water and Sewer Division Foreman, has authored a new water sampling plan for the Borough's state mandated testing sites. These newly identified sites are used for quality control and state sampling. This proposal is awaiting approval from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection before implementation.

For the time period of January 19, 2015, through February 6, 2015, our Highway Division reports the following statistics:

- Eighteen loads of trash collected totaling 172 tons
- Sixteen loads of recycling collected totaling 70 tons
- Fourteen loads of bulk trash collected

The crews are also out repairing potholes. If you notice an issue with a pothole on a Borough street, please call 589-1040 and report it for repair.

Councilman Razzo – Councilman Razzo read the following report: I would like to ask that we all keep the family of Valerie DiPatri in our thoughts and prayers following her unexpected passing last week. Valerie died of a massive heart attack, leaving behind four children, including her high school triplets. For anyone that would like to contribute, the family has asked for donations to the DiPatri Children College Fund, c/o TD Bank.

The Economic Development Committee will meet next Thursday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

The Recreation Commission met last Thursday night here in Council Chambers. Our in-house basketball skills sessions will end this week, with Saturday morning being our last session.

Recreation Director, Andy Fox, is exploring the idea of open gym time throughout the spring and summer for basketball and a summer 3v3 basketball league. This program will be held on the newly refinished courts at Shertel Park. Our Recreation Department softball pitching clinic for Pitman High School students is underway and being run by local softball star Jenn Rebman on Thursday nights. T- Ball registration was held last week and the program will begin in April. Any parent who missed registration, and would still like their child to participate, should contact Andy Fox.

There was also some discussion about closing the age gap between the Recreation Department's micro mini soccer program, and the Pitman Soccer Association's program. This age gap to participate often forces children out of town to other programs...some never to return. Mr. Fox is also considering an alumni softball game for Pitman Softball and Baseball alumni who might be interested in playing; baseball and softball seem to be the only sports that do not have some type of alumni game during the year.

Early preparations have begun for Youth Week, which will begin on Sunday, May 3, 2015, with the Youth Council Meeting. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with our Youth Week events. If interested, please contact Andy Fox or me.

Those on Council who were planning to attend the Joint Insurance Fund's Elected Officials Seminar on the night of our "cataclysmic snow event" last month are reminded that the event was rescheduled for Tuesday, February 24, at Merighi's Savoy Inn in Vineland. For those on Council who have not yet attended this year, there is still time. Not only does the Borough receive a credit for each attendee, it also is a very informative evening, discussing ethics as it relates to serving in public office.

Finally, all employees and volunteers who are provided coverage under the Borough's insurance should be reminded that there are specific policies and procedures in place when an accident or injury occurs. Obviously, emergencies require immediate attention and should be dealt with accordingly, but any claims going through the office, specifically through our Safety Coordinator Judy O'Donnell and/or Claims Coordinator Nancy Yurick, should be handled based on their directions, without exception. It is only through immediate reporting and careful case management of claims that we are able to prevent additional expense to the Borough.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that the Memorabilia Committee met on February 3, 2015. He also stated that the McCowan Memorial Library reported 3,105 articles in circulation during the month of January.

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported that Patrolman Barbetta and SLEO Stefanopoulos will attend Bicycle Patrol School from May 4 through May 8 of this year. Also, Patrolman Bailey and SLEO Stefanopoulos have successfully completed their qualification training for Firearms and Use of Force.

"Coffee with a Cop" will take place at the Venice Italian Restaurant on Saturday morning, March 14, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Councilman Austin commended Cpl. Streater, Patrolman Decker, Patrolman Beschen, and Patrolman Barbetta for their 2014 work performance, and recognized the officers who used no sick leave during 2014.

Councilman Austin reported that it has been quiet for our fire departments lately. He also

announced that the Fire Safety Office has received a supply of smoke detectors from a program sponsored by ABC, Channel 6, in Philadelphia. These smoke detectors are free for residents who are in need, and are available from the Fire Safety Office.

The Office of Emergency Management is planning a follow-up exercise to the Haz-Mat training that took place last fall. It is tentatively scheduled for a weekend in March.

The Environmental Commission is in need of a recording secretary for their monthly meetings. Interested applicants should stop by Borough Hall for information.

New Business

Resolution No. 45, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Quote to Steffen Drilling , LLC for the Decommission, Closure and Abandonment of Well No. 5

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 46, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Making Appointments to Specific Board and Commission Positions and Confirming Such Appointments for the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 47, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Form of Performance Guarantee Proposed for a Project by Joy Community Church Affecting Parcel Known as 309 Florence Avenue, Block 51, Lot 1 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 48, 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 subject to be discussed shall be:

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and PBA Local 122

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 49, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Rescinding Resolution No. 153, 2014 Entitled “Awarding Contract to Wilcof Roofing & Construction for the Municipal Building Roof Replacement Project” and Authorizing Advertisement and Submission of New Bids

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

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

***Event Permit Applications**

Event: Wedding

Applicant: Joan Cocciolone

Date: February 11, 2015

Location: Council Chambers

Contact Person: Joan Cocciolone

*The Motion by Councilman Razze to approve was rescinded when discussion by Council determined that an Event Permit was not necessary.

Application for Signage

Applicant: Pitman Poems on Parade

Date: March 1, 2015 – April 30, 2015

Location: Library, Alcyon Park

Contact Person: Lynne Nelson or Irene Donnelly

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:30 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Austin
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Second: Blass

Motion to return to an open meeting: Kelley
Time: 9:20 p.m.

Second: Razze

No action was taken as a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Kelley
Time: 9:21 p.m.

Second: Razze

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator