

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2015
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:05 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 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: Absent
Councilman Razzo: Present
Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Formal Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2015

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Absent
Councilman Razzo: Yes

Committee Reports

Mayor Johnson thanked all Borough departments and the Office of Emergency Management personnel for their efforts following the June 23, 2015 storm. He announced that the Borough received notification today that Governor Christie has written to President Obama requesting that he issue a Major Disaster Declaration for Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. Any assistance granted will be for municipalities. No individual assistance will be provided.

Councilman Austin

Councilman Austin thanked the Police Department for their work in assisting the residents during the recent storm, and commended all the Emergency Response personnel on how they all worked together.

Councilman Austin stated that the July Fourth Parade and Fireworks celebration went on without a hitch this

year. He thanked Sgt. Owens for his preparation, Councilman Razze and all his Parade Committee volunteers, and congratulated Kara Montanero, who was the Pitman Police Department's entry in the pageant this year. Miss Montanero was awarded second place in the pageant.

The Southern New Jersey Prosecutor's Office is conducting the Ninth Annual School Security Conference on August 18, 2015. The Police Department will be sending five officers for training.

The Environmental Commission did not meet this month.

The Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management report that there were no major fires in town over the last month. Councilman Austin thanked all the volunteers, Fire Chiefs and OEM personnel for their efforts during this past storm, with particular thanks to OEM member Mike Mollett for helping with the radios and communication equipment during the storm.

Councilman Paul Blass

Councilman Blass read the following report:

The past few weeks have been busy dealing with the aftermath of the storm.

- A giant tree was removed from Third Avenue alley
- A tree was removed from Snyder Avenue
- Trees were trimmed at Ballard Park
- Still to be done are: Harmon Field, Magnolia "field" behind the high school, removal of trees from around the Grove Auditorium, and additional work at Ballard Park

We checked out about a dozen other trees that ended up being on private property.

Anyone who has a question about a tree can contact me or call the Borough Office and we will have someone check it out.

Lowe's has something called the Hero Project. They are willing to help us repair some of the damage at Walton Park. I will be meeting with representatives there on Wednesday.

A hole in the stage at Sunset Auditorium was repaired.

The Pitman Memorabilia Museum was open for tours on Saturday, July 11. Miss Pitman, Doménica Castro, was there to begin training as a docent. The Museum will be open again on the 4th Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Pitman Board of Education meets this Wednesday, July 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pitman High School library.

Councilman Razze

Councilman Razze thanked all who assisted with the clean up after the storm, particularly Jared Harmon, Andy Fox, and the Alcyon Park crew for cleaning around the park, the Dell, and some of the other areas.

The Recreation Committee did not meet this month.

The Miss Pitman Pageant theme was "Small Town Tradition", and it was held on the evening of July 3 at the Broadway Theatre. Doménica Castro was crowned Miss Pitman 2015, Kara Kincaid was 1st runner up, Kara Montanero was 2nd runner up. Carolyn Procaccio was voted Miss Congeniality. Councilman Razze thanked the members of the Miss Pitman Pageant Committee, Sue Crispin, Beryl Kane, Lauren Peterson, Sandy Razze, and

Walt Madison, as well as the businesses and groups that sponsored contestants.

The 4th of July festivities began with the Freedom 4 Mile Road Race at 8:35 a.m. This year 856 runners finished the race. The top male finisher was Anthony Dentino of Sewell with a time of 21 minutes, 2 seconds, and the top female finisher was Megan McClichey of W. Deptford, with a time of 22 minutes, 56 seconds. The top Pitman finishers were Justin Fortney with a time of 24 minutes, 36 seconds, and Angela Dunn at 26 minutes, 29 seconds. Councilman Razzo congratulated his son Anthony, who ran in the 14 and under age category, and finished with a time of 26 minutes, 26 seconds, placing 33rd overall.

The parade started at 9:56 a.m., and Councilman Razzo again congratulated this year's Grand Marshal, Gene Shoemaker. He thanked the Woman's Club of Pitman for their donations to the parade, as well as Kate Gallo from Cape Bank for sponsoring the Bike and Carriage Division.

Councilman Razzo thanked Anthony Razzo for helping distribute the street closure notices on the morning of July 3, our Fire Department, and Borough Fire Chief Bruce Scott who came out prior to the parade to judge the fire apparatus. He also thanked those individuals who came out on the morning of the parade to assist with the line-up, and to all the volunteers who carried the banners in the parade.

Councilman Razzo offered a special thanks to Mayor Johnson, Council President Patti Kelley, and Councilman Jim Pierpont for coming out this year to judge the floats prior to the beginning of the parade.

The Awards Ceremony for parade participants was held on July 9th during the Hobo Band Concert at Sunset Auditorium. The Gloucester County Community Church won three of the awards. Mt. Rushmore won two awards, Highland Chemical Engine Company was the best appearing marching unit, and Fire Company #1 received awards for Best Pitman Apparatus and Best Color Guard.

Thanks also to Bright Beginnings Preschool, the Church of the Good Sheppard, Pitman United Methodist Church, and the St. James Lutheran Church for the use of their facilities on the day of the parade. Also, thanks to Investors Bank, Pitman Cards and Gifts, Main Street Investment Group, and the employees of the Clerk's Office in Borough Hall for helping to sell the fireworks tickets. Councilman Razzo thanked the Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management, and Len Clark for the use of the radios, Sgt. Owens and the entire Police Department for their help with all of our events, the Public Works Department employees for making sure that our parade route was clean and ready after the storm, and especially to the ladies in Borough Hall who field the countless phone calls and questions about the parade and fireworks.

Councilman Razzo stated that although they keep trying to get out of it, and he keeps pulling them back in, he owes much thanks to former Parade Committee Chairwomen, and members of the committee, Dawn and Bill Ritzler, and Betty and Ron Stanwood.

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee also thanked everyone who worked to make this year's Fourth of July Celebration so nice.

Councilwoman Higbee reported that the Borough of Pitman has received our certification schedule for the 2015 general tax rate, which is our county, school, and municipal tax rate, combined. Due to the delay in receiving the 2015 state aid award figures, the third quarter tax payment, which is usually due on August 1, will not be due until August 19. Our total tax rate is \$4.008 per \$100.00 of the assessed value of a borough home. Last year the rate was 3.885 dollars.

Our New Jersey State aid allocation is \$638,447.00, the same amount as in 2014. Our consolidated property tax relief was cut by approximately by \$10,000.00, and our energy tax receipts distribution was increased by approximately \$10,000.00.

On July 9, 2015, the Historic Preservation Commission met, and three applications were reviewed and approved. These applications will be presented for final approval at the July 20 Planning & Zoning Board meeting.

Councilwoman Higbee reported that under the direction of our Administrator, a second reverse auction was held to obtain bids to secure electricity for the borough's general service and lighting meters. The general service meters went for a 24-month term to Major Energy, with a rate of .864 cents per kilowatt-hour, and our lighting meters went for a 24-month term to Constellation Energy at .0599 cents per kilowatt-hour. Both of these rates are less than the price we had set for ourselves as acceptable rates. Thanks to Administrator O'Donnell.

Councilwoman Higbee thanked all borough employees who kept things together and working during our recent storm event. She extended a special thanks to the employees of the Clerk's Office and the Construction Office who came to work each day during the power outage, and who worked in the dark and in extreme heat to be available to offer aid and support to the residents as needed. Councilwoman Higbee said that she greatly appreciates their dedication, and the dedication of all employees who worked during this stressful time.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 9, 2015 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Creating a New Chapter __ of the Code of the Borough of Pitman Entitled “Abandoned Real Property Registration”

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Blass Second: Higbee

Motion to open to the public: Razze Second: Blass

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Motion to close public portion: Razze Second: Blass

Time: 8:26 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Resolution No. 124, 2015 - 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: Yes	Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes	Council President Kelley: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Absent	Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____	

Resolution No. 125, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Change Order No. 1 to the Contract With Asphalt Paving Corporation for the Reconstruction of Highland Terrace

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 126, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Form of Performance Guarantee Submitted for Approval for a Project by Edward and Leslie Powell Affecting the Parcel Known as 46 Elm Avenue, Block 194, Lot 20 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Motion: Higbee

Second: Razzo

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 127, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Extending the Due Date for the Third Quarter 2015 Taxes

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstains to # 30631; Yes to all other items.

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Raffle License Applications

Type: On-Premises Raffle (TV, MP3 Player)

Non-Draw Raffle (Wheels, etc.)

On-Premises 50/50 Raffle

Off-Premises 50/50 Raffle

Event: Highland Chemical Engine Company Labor Day Carnival

Organization: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Jeff Penuel

Dates: September 3, 4, 5, & 7, 2015

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Type: Off-Premises 50/50 Raffle

Organization: Knights of Columbus Council #6247; Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

Contact Person: William Becker

Dates: November 12, 2015 @ 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:32 p.m.

Cynthia Ventura, 162 East Avenue – Ms. Ventura asked if anyone on Council knew the status of the repairs and the restoration of electricity to the apartment building at 166 East Avenue. She said that even though the residents are not supposed to be in the building due to safety concerns, they are in and out all day. Mayor Johnson stated that Fire Safety Inspector Ryan Pierson has been working with the owner of the property to have the repairs made that will bring the property up to Code, as well as to getting the electricity back on.

Ms. Ventura also mentioned that traffic has become a problem lately on East Avenue with cars not obeying the speed limit and going the wrong way on the one way street.

Marge Monahan, 203 East Avenue – Ms. Monahan thanked Mayor Johnson for his efforts during the recent storm. She said that she appreciated all he did to help the residents in the Grove, and throughout the Borough.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen stated that he appreciated all the efforts that were made to clean up after the recent storm. Mr. Owen also mentioned that a property on the 300 block of Pitman Avenue has had a large amount of household trash on the curb since before June 30, 2015. He asked what action the Borough was taking to remove it and/or make the landlord get rid of it. Councilman Blass said that he will contact Public Works Manager Steve Alexander to see if the trash has been tagged with a violation notice and what, if any, other action has been taken by the department.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Higbee

Time: 8:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Second: Higbee

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator