

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2015
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:10 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: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Also present at this meeting for the 2015 Municipal Budget adoption portion was Borough CFO Steve Considine and Henry Ludwigsen of Bowman & Associates, the Borough's auditing firm.

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2015

Motion: Blass

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

New Business

Resolution No. 93, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the 2015 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only

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

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 6, 2015 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:14 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:14 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

2015 Municipal Budget Hearing

Final Adoption and Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution of the Borough of Pitman for the year 2015 was approved by the Borough Council on April 27, 2015 and was published in the "South Jersey Times" in the issue of May 11, 2015.

Motion to adopt 2015 Municipal Budget: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:15 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: No

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin thanked the Police Department and the employees from the Public Works Department who helped with the Spring Craft Show.

Councilman Austin reported that Ptlm. Hoffman and Ptlm. Weist successfully completed the two-week course taught by the New Jersey State Police to become Certified Drug Recognition Experts for the Police Department.

Councilman Austin reminded everyone that tomorrow is the "Coffee with a Cop" event at the WaWa on Woodbury-Glassboro Road. It will run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

There has been little activity for the Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management.

The Environmental Commission presented a great Earth Day observance with many activities, and the Green Team also had a great presentation. Both groups showcased their efforts during the Spring Craft Show.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that the Friends of the Library will be having a Teddy Bear Picnic on June 10th at 7:00 p.m. Children will be making a stuffed animal and decorating a t-shirt for their animal. Light refreshments will be served. The cost is \$5.00, and may be a little more depending on the size of animal chosen.

The Friends of the Library will again be sponsoring the Summer Reading Program. The theme for 2015 is *Every Hero Has a Story*.

Library Statistics for April:

Total circulation totaled 3,265 items, which includes 2,480 direct loans and 785 reciprocal loans

Visitors totaled – 5,568

Internet users – 356

Story time participants – 467 children

Councilman Razze – Councilman Razze reminded everyone that the deadline for the Parade Grand Marshal nominations is this Friday, May 29. The deadline to register to participate in the Fourth of July Parade is June 12, 2015.

Councilman Razze thanked the members of the VFW and American Legion for a very nice Memorial Day service yesterday, with special thanks to Councilman Pierpont and Mayor Johnson for their participation.

Councilman Razze reported that the Economic Development Committee met last week, and at this point it appears that all spaces on the Delsea advertising sign have been taken. Other topics of discussion were the closing of the bakery and efforts to find someone to move into the space. There was discussion on the topic brought up by Councilman Austin at the last meeting regarding a potential liquor license for a future business at the Sony property. There was also discussion of the sale of Guillermo's Restaurant to Pitman resident Peter Slack. The appointments of a new member, and for a paid intern, along with the fund raising effort for the Theatre Avenue project were also discussed. The new directional signs for parking areas should be going up shortly around the Borough.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

We are still experiencing some equipment maintenance problems with our leaf collecting equipment. One vacuum truck is trying to get caught up, with one last sweep of the Borough scheduled for this week. If residents have leaves, or notice that leaves have been at the curb in your neighborhood for weeks, please report it to Public Works at 589-1040.

Adams Avenue was paved at considerable savings to the Borough by "sharing services" with Glassboro.

The Highland Terrace repaving project is underway, please use care and caution while work is underway.

One fountain was installed at Glen Lake, just in time for Prom pictures. This was a combined effort between the Parks Department and Public Works.

Our trash and recycling numbers for the period of May 11- May 22 are as follows;

Thirteen loads of trash were collected for a total of 128.5 tons

Eleven loads of recycling collected for a total of 48.2 tons

Three loads of bulk trash were collected and included in the tonnage amount

Sixty-five yards of collected leaves were transported to Smith Orchards for disposal, and eleven residents had free mulch delivered to their homes.

Finally, I'd like to say how nice it was to see so many residents turn out at yesterday's Memorial Day Remembrance ceremony. The Grove Auditorium and Ballard Park looked fantastic. A big thank you to the Pitman Garden Club, the Pitman Police Department, the Pitman Fire Department, Pitman Public Works, Mrs. O'Donnell, and Miss Haley Migeot, our 2015 Miss Pitman for making the event successful. In my opinion, what we do in Pitman; how we remember those men and women who paid the highest price for freedom is the most respectful and classiest in the county. We do it right.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee read the following report:

As you know, we recently had a DocuVault shredding event in Pitman, and as an extra bonus the company is offering three additional shredding opportunities at no cost to the Borough. These dates will be July 15, September 16, and November 18. We will post the times and location when the dates are closer. Each resident may have four copy paper size boxes to shred, anything additional will be \$5.00 per box. They will also destroy hard drives for \$4.00 per unit.

The Borough has received their 2015 New Jersey Clean Communities program check. This past Saturday a Clean Communities clean up took place at First and Second Avenues and at the Museum. The clean-up was provided by the graduating eighth grade class, and some of their parents, under the direction of Louise Spera.

Council President Kelley – Council President Kelley reported that the Green Team participated in the Earth Day celebration on Saturday May 16. Jeff Quattrone from the McCowan Memorial Library, and his sculpture made from all recycled materials was the featured attraction. The Green Team will meet this Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

The Planning & Zoning Board held a brief meeting Monday, May 18, where nine applications were reviewed. Their next meeting will be on June 15, at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

Resolution No. 94, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Edward Lovett as a Part-Time Driver/Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Public Works Highway Division

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. 95, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing John Burns as a Part-Time Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Public Works Highway Division

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. 96, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Steven Snyder to the Position of Alcyon Lake Park Assistant Superintendent

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

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. 97, 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:

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and PBA Local 122

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

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. 98, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Allison Kostiuk as a Member of 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: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson ____

Resolution No. 99, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Lyle Steffen as a Paid Intern for the Borough of Pitman Economic Development Committee

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

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. 100, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing John Milward to the Position of Seasonal Employee for the Borough of Pitman Recreation Department for the Maintenance of Borough Owned Parks

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson ____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson ____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:35 p.m.

Penny Hausmann, 57 Colonial Avenue – Mrs. Hausmann presented a copy of the Pitman Grove Review from 1947 to the Pitman Memorabilia Museum. She noted that an article in the paper reported the creation of a budget in the amount of \$10,500 for a new high speed train survey.

Ronald Adams, 150 Grandview Avenue – Mr. Adams commented on the politeness and responsiveness of the Public Works Department with any issue he has had to call them about.

He went on to say that he has a complaint about the grass at the house located at Grandview and Morris Avenues. He said it is at least 23 inches tall at this point, and it needs to be addressed. He asked if there was a way that the Borough could circumvent having to notify the owner each time Public Works employees go out to mow.

Solicitor Duffield responded that by circumventing the notification process, the Borough would be giving up the right to place a lien on the property for the cost of the service. The purpose of the seven-day notice

period is to serve the owner with the ordinance violation, if they don't comply, then you have two options. One, the Borough can mow it and place a lien on the property, and two, the Borough can serve them a violation, and the owner would have to go to court.

Councilman Pierpont stated that the grass became so tall because no one in the Public Works Department chose to take advantage of the overtime opportunity when it was posted right before the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Debbie Edwards, 437 Poinsett Avenue – “I have been denied the ability to put a shed on my property because it is a utility easement. My neighbor has multiple violations of the utility easement and it was my understanding that with the purchase of the property that yes, we had a county utility easement and a borough utility easement and we are not allowed to put a permanent structure on the easements. There was nothing ever stated that I read, that a moveable shed could not be put on these easements. When I went to get my tax bill for the new house that I built I am taxed on the entire lot including the easements. The county tax assessor said I'm a lake front property, therefore, my taxes are worth \$16,000.00 on my new house. But according to you, with your borough easement and county easement, I'm not allowed to put a moveable shed on the property, yet my neighbor has a permanent concrete driveway, a shed, and an air conditioning unit on his easement.”

Mayor Johnson stated that what her neighbor was, and who he is, has nothing to do with this situation being discussed, or Council's action in the Work Session earlier this evening.

Ms. Edwards stated that the sheds she would like to put up are being moved from her former residence, and would be placed on a stone bed, not a concrete slab. Access to the easement would be available if needed. She stated that she feels that the Borough is making too much of the issue of the sheds and would like to see the Borough enforce easement restrictions unilaterally throughout the Borough.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:57 p.m.

Second: Higbee

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Austin
Time: 8:58 p.m.

Second: Blass

Motion to return to an open meeting: Razze
Time: 9:46 p.m.

Second: Blass

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

Motion was made by Councilman Austin to present Option 2 to the negotiating committee representing the officers of the Pitman Police Department, and to remove the potential payment of the longevity benefit to those employees of the Police Department not currently eligible to receive it, and agreeing to Addendum A, the salary guide for officers in year one through year seven of employment with the Pitman Police Department.

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: No

Mayor Johnson _____

Miscellaneous

Borough Solicitor Duffield provided Council with an update on the financial situation of the seller of 106 S. Broadway and 175 East Avenue. At this time, the State of New Jersey has agreed to reduce the amount to be placed in escrow to protect the interests of the buyer and the state for any unpaid tax liabilities from

\$12,000 to approximately \$3,000.

Adjournment

Motion: Razzo

Time: 9:55 p.m.

Second: Kelley

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator