

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

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:04 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

Councilman Blass: Present

Councilwoman Higbee: Present

Council President Kelley: Present

Councilman Pierpont: Present

Councilman Razze: Present

Mayor Johnson: Present

Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

**Approval of Minutes**

**Work Session and Council Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2015**

Motion: Blass

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor Johnson** congratulated Councilman Blass and Councilwoman-Elect Amy Rudley on their successful run for office. He stated that he looks forward to working with them in 2016. Mayor Johnson also thanked all of the candidates that ran for office for their desire to serve the Borough in the capacity of elected official.

**Committee Reports**

**Councilman Austin** congratulated the members of the Pitman Police Department who participated in the two drug related arrests that took place this past week.

Councilman Austin reported that on November 2, Captain McAteer taught a Crime Prevention class at the Gloucester County Police Academy. In donating his time, the Police Department receives training credits for members of the department to attend

future classes.

On November 5 and 6, Corporal Beschen attended Taser Instructor School. He is now the official Trainer/Instructor for the Pitman Police Department.

On November 13 the Police Department will receive their first round of Body Camera training.

Councilman Austin reported that he attended the Environmental Commission meeting on November 5. At the meeting, discussion centered on developing a vegetative buffer area around Alcyon Lake. The Commission's plan will be presented to Council at a future date.

The Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management have had no recent activity to be reported.

**Councilman Blass** reported that the Memorabilia Museum will be open this Saturday from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Trees have been removed on Third Avenue this week. The trunks of the trees that were previously removed from around the Grove Auditorium have been ground down and the shavings taken away. The Borough still has trees by the high school that need to be taken care of. Councilman Blass also reminded residents that if they see a tree that needs attention, and is located on Borough property, please call him or Borough Hall and let someone know.

### **Councilman Razzo**

Councilman Razzo read the following report:

Congratulations to Mayor Johnson, Councilman Blass, and Councilwoman-Elect Rudley on their successful bids for reelection and election to Council. Thank you also to Councilman Pierpont, former Councilman Jeff Sanders, and Bob Shirley for just being willing to spend time away from their families and their already busy lives to go through the election process, and for their willingness to serve all of us...the taxpayers and residents of Pitman.

Parade registration deadline is this Friday – 4:00 p.m. for paper applications at Borough Hall, and midnight for online registrations. Line-up should be finished by Tuesday and out to participants by Wednesday. So far, we have about thirty-seven participants registered. Line-up will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 28 at the Methodist Church parking lot. North Broadway will be closed at approximately 4:30 p.m. and the parade will start at 5:00 p.m. The parade should be over between 5:30 and 5:45, and will be followed by the tree lighting ceremony in Ballard Park, and visits with Santa hosted by the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce. Alcyon Park Director, Jared Harmon will have the trees decorated before the big day, and the concrete pad approved by Council for the Santa House was poured last week. Anyone who is willing and able to help, should meet in the church parking lot starting at 3:45.

I am pleased to announce that the Borough has received their dividend notice from the Joint Insurance Fund for the 2015 fund year. The total amount of the dividend that we will be receiving this year is a record-setting \$50,077.00. This dividend is not only made possible through the conscientious safety initiatives we take as a Borough, such as our safety prevention programs and return to work programs, but it also is the direct result of the tough stance taken by the Executive Claims Committee of the JIF. I have had the opportunity to serve on this committee for the past several years, and I can tell you that the group we have in place right now does not simply pay claims to get rid of them when a strong defense is warranted. This keeps our claim awards low and allows our surplus to grow...ultimately leading to the dividends we receive year after year. I assure you, not all funds or self-insured programs are as successful as ours.

Now that the election has passed and we all know who is going to be here next year, a reminder that the JIF Elected Officials Seminars will be starting soon with the first one held at Merighi's in Vineland on December 2. The seminar held at Nicolosi's will be on January 14...registration from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the seminar from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### **Councilman Pierpont**

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

First off, I must congratulate Russ Johnson, Amy Rudley, and Paul Blass on the election night results. Personally, I had a lot of fun and learned from each one of the candidates during this election season. It was the highlight in my young political career, if you will, and I look forward to working with each of you during the next two years. Congratulations.

Leaf collection is in full swing. Crews were working overtime last Saturday and may continue to do so to get caught up. Leaf collection is done on scheduled days, which reflect trash pick up. Special call-in requests for leaf pickup are not considered. If you have any questions concerning leaf pick up or the schedule, please call 589-1040.

The Santa House was placed in Ballard Park today. Workers will be back on sight tomorrow making the final preps for Santa's arrival in the park. For more information on this event, please watch the Borough and Chamber of Commerce Facebook pages.

Bid opening for the water/sewer and storm water project for portions of Elm, Spruce, and Elsie Avenues is scheduled for November 19.

The Water and Sewer Division cut, capped, and buried, the water spigot below grade located behind the old bank building next door to Borough Hall, thus removing a potential safety hazard. They also repaired a water main leak at the concession stand at Alcyon Park, and a water main leak on Lexington Avenue.

Trash collection totals for the period of October 26 through November 6 are as follows;  
Fifteen loads of trash were collected totaling 161 tons  
Eleven loads of recycling were collected for a total of 46 tons

Forty-four loads of brush were collected  
Three loads of bulk trash  
One hundred four loads of leaves were vacuumed off the streets

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that the Public Works Department will be closed on Veteran's Day.

**Councilwoman Higbee**

Councilwoman Higbee read the following report:  
Our Tax Collector collected, for the month of October, \$1,874,480.44. This past week, Clean Communities sponsored three clean-ups. The one at the Dell, completed by the members of the Pitman High School Drama Club, collected seventy bags of leaves. The other clean-ups were done at Shertel Park and Sunset Auditorium. Additional clean-ups are scheduled for the next two weeks.

The Historic Commission's next meeting will be on November 12.

On October 26, the annual Senior Luncheon took place at Mannino's. It was sponsored by the Pitman Municipal Alliance, and was a success. I want to thank Administrator O'Donnell for setting up all the details.

**Council President Kelley**

Council President Kelley read the following report:  
The next Planning & Zoning Board meeting will be held on November 16, at 7:00 p.m. It has been a quiet year for the Combined Planning and Zoning Board with most action coming from the approval of Historic Commission applications.

The next Green Team meeting will be November 19, at 7:00 p.m. They continue to work on their certification and are considering several options for the remaining grant money they were awarded in March.

The new Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Powell, has already been quite busy meeting with residents to handle various neighbor complaints and to issue citations. He is officially working on his own, and I appreciate all of the assistance he received from former Code Enforcement Officer, Bruce Scott.

Tonight, we have two ordinances on the agenda for their second reading. Both of these ordinances pertain to our business districts and will set clearly defined guidelines for merchants and for our Zoning Officer to follow.

**Additional Comments**

**Councilman Pierpont** reported that the Second Chance store will be relocating to Lawnside.

**Councilman Razzo** stated that regarding lights at Alcyon Park for the athletic fields; it was brought to his attention by Jared Harmon that when the field was done, there was

also conduit and electrical boxes installed. Over the years, there have been sporting organizations asking if there could be lighting put in out there. The Pitman Athletic Association has also approached Councilman Razze and asked if they could raise money for this project. Councilman Razze said that this is something we may want to get a cost estimate for a future project.

**New Business**

**Ordinance No. 11, 2015 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter XXXV Entitled “Zoning” and to Create a New §35-38 Entitled “Outdoor Display of Merchandise” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman**

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Kelley Second: Higbee

Motion to open to the Public: Kelley Second: Higbee

Time: 8:24 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Kelley Second: Higbee

Time: 8:24 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Ordinance No. 12, 2015 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter XXIII Entitled “Outdoor Eating Facilities” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman**

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Kelley Second: Higbee

Motion to open to the Public: Kelley Second: Higbee

Time: 8:25 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Kelley Second: Higbee

Time: 8:25 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 175, 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 Henry Delooff Affecting the Parcel Known as 209 Boulevard Avenue, Block 27, Lot 10 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 176, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Certifying to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey That the Members of the Governing Body of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, Has Received and Reviewed the Annual Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2014**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 177, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving to Enter Into an Agreement With the Gloucester County Co-op For the Repair of a Public Works Pickup Truck in the Amount of \$3,815.00.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Permit Applications**

**Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce**

**Event: Holiday Display in Ballard Park, Santa House & Trolley Rides**

Time: See application for various times

Location: Ballard Park, Broadway, and various Borough streets

Contact Person: Ronald Brown

**Signage for Event**

**Location: Sponsor Billboard; Corner Ballard Park, Pitman Ave. & Broadway**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant: Pitman Parade Committee**

**Event:** 2015 Santa Parade

Date: Saturday, November 28, 2015

Time: 5:00 p.m. (Closing Broadway beginning at 4:30 p.m.)

Location: Broadway, from Lambs to Ballard Park for tree lighting ceremonies

Contact Person: Michael Razze

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Abstain

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator

