

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2016**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 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 2016, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 3, 2016.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Present

Councilwoman Higbee: Present

Councilman Razze: Present

Mayor Johnson: Present

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Blass: Present

Council President Pierpont: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present

Borough Solicitor Alice: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting, & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2016

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain

Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Abstain

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin read the following review of departmental activities for 2015.

Pitman Police Department

Successful contract negotiation

Implementation of body worn cameras

Switch over to new radio communication system

Implementation of the Bike Unit

Continuous and aggressive drug investigation within the Borough

Training and maintenance of training

Professionalism in the Police Force

Retirement of Chief Zimmerman

Promotion of Chief McAteer

Fire Department

392 total runs

One major working fire on Long Avenue

House collapse on West Avenue

Fire Safety and Office of Emergency Management

The coordination and the collaboration of efforts during the storm in June shows the fiber of what this town is made of; people helping people. My thanks to all involved.

Environmental Commission

The members of the Environmental Commission worked hard during the year on various environmental issues, and held another successful Earth Day celebration in May.

Councilman Austin thanked the residents of the Borough and members of Council for their support as his role and responsibilities will change with the New Year.

New Report

Councilman Austin read the following report for the month of January:

I was unable to attend the Library Board of Trustees meeting on January 26, and I thank Council President Pierpont who attended in my place and forwarded all the meeting information to me afterwards. The Friends of the Library are having their annual membership drive; if you are not a Friend of the Library, please consider becoming one. Forms can be picked up at the library or please see me. The Friends of the Library donated \$1,000.00 to the library for the purchase of new furniture.

The Historic Commission meeting was on January 9, where seven applications were approved.

The Economic Development Committee presented a plan to replace the informational sign at the corner of Holly Avenue and Broadway.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported that a tree had to be taken down last week in Sunset Park under emergency conditions, and the annual fire inspection was performed at the Pitman Memorabilia Museum.

Councilman Razzo

Councilman Razzo read the following report for the month of January:

The Recreation Commission did not meet in the month of January.

The Environmental Commission met and decided that once again they will celebrate Earth Day with a display and activities at the Spring Craft Show, which will take place on May 14, 2016.

The Environmental Commission had discussed this previously, and asked that I bring up the idea to Council of having a volunteer night with all of the different Borough committees and commissions represented. This would be a good thing for residents who may want to volunteer but are not sure of how to go about doing so. I know that the Environmental Commission is trying to find a Shade Tree Coordinator, and also is looking for an Education Representative who would organize programs to be presented in our local schools. It is believed that if each organization would come out and talk about their group, it would help with future volunteers.

I attended my first New Jersey Municipal Access Liability meeting. We discussed different coverage's that the MEL has been talking about putting forward for the member municipalities.

Councilman Razze read the following Year End Report and dedicated it to the upcoming Poems on Parade activity that will take place in Pitman during the month of April.

2015: A Year in Review
A poem by Councilman Michael L. Razze, Jr.

The year started with basketball, full court press for kids, tweens, and teens, and slid into T-ball representing the MLB for the little pro players, though very green.

The Park was pristine and blooming with life; the fields were under repair.
Spring saw soccer and walkers all over the place; the park employees worked with pizzazz and flare.

May saw Youth Week with students and events, manager meeting, and Public Works tour.
Recreation and the Pitman PD had a fishing tournament, but with the new buffer at Alcyon, no more.

Summer brought playground and the parade; a new Miss Pitman joined the ranks.
We had Theatre and Hobo Band concerts, and kids who loved flag football, said thanks.

A not so terrible Movie in the Park at Sunset; field hockey players, and a JIF Safety Award.
As summer drew to a close and the fall began, micro mini soccer players had goals they were working towards.

Fall sports filled the park as Thanksgiving approached; another parade, and Santa rolled into town.
Kids who needed help got a great gift from the Borough, as the clock on 2015 wound down.

(Applause from members of Council, and residents in attendance)

Council President Pierpont

Council President Pierpont read the following report:

As we begin the New Year, and the budget process, Mr. Alexander and I have been working to ensure our Public Works Department continues to provide the best possible service, while looking for areas to save our taxpayers money. That being said, the Public Works budget proposals will be discussed at our February 17 budget meeting. The public is invited to attend.

Contract negotiations will begin this week with both our Highway Division and the Water & Sewer Division of Public Works.

The trash and recycling numbers for the period of January 25 - February 5, are as follows:
Fourteen loads of trash collected for a total of 115 tons
Eleven loads of recycling collected for a total of 38 tons
Eight loads of bulk trash and three loads of leaves were also collected during that period

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce will meet on Tuesday, February 16. The Chamber would like to remind everyone to Eat, Stay, Stroll, and Shop Local.

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee reported that the Borough Tax Collector reported the collection of \$1,480,587.87 in January. The total taxes collected for the year 2015 is \$22,675,358.00. That amount reflects a 97.02 % collection rate for the year of 2015.

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley reported that Patrolman Bailey of the Pitman Police Department attended the Method of Instruction course from January 25 - 29 at the Gloucester County Police Academy. This course is required by the Police Training Commission for all instructors who will be training other police officers. By completing this course, Ptlm. Bailey may now instruct other officers in areas that he has been trained in. This training was obtained at no cost to the Pitman Police Department.

Patrolman Parker is now participating in semi-annual training with his K9 partner, Ranger, today and tomorrow at the Atlantic City Police Academy.

Councilwoman Rudley announced that on April 16, 2016, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce will host a musical performance by an ABBA tribute band at the Broadway Theatre. Proceeds from this event will be used to construct the pocket park planned for Theatre Avenue.

New Business

Resolution No. 34, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing 2016 Reserve Budget Transfers

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 35, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for Preventive Maintenance of the Emergency Backup Generators at Well 3 and Well 4 in the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 36, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for the 2016 Collection and Recycling of CRT and Non-CRT E-Waste for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Councilman Razze – What would be the cost to the Borough, \$11,000.00? Do we have any sense of what it will cost us at this rate based on what we picked up in the past?

Council President Pierpont – That will fluctuate from week to week, month to month. To put a dollar figure on it, I would not be able to.

Councilman Razze – I was just looking to see if the \$11,000.00 was based on something?

Council President Pierpont – I’m not sure where this figure of \$11,000.00 came from. I think it is just an average.

Councilman Razze – We can now start taking E-waste?

Council President Pierpont – Correct, as soon as we pass this resolution we can start collecting E-waste again.

Councilwoman Rudley – Memorial School HSA collects E-waste, and they have a drive for it, and they get money for their collection. Do you know if there has been any cross-referencing between the Public Works Department and the school? I know that Memorial School cannot take everything, but we are going to pay to get rid of it and Memorial School will receive money for collecting it and getting rid of it.

Council President Pierpont – I’m not sure, and I’m not sure what E-waste the school is collecting.

Councilwoman Rudley – If I were to vote on this, I would hope there would be someone from Public Works that would contact the Memorial School’s HSA to see if there is any way they can funnel some E-waste their way.

Council President Pierpont – I will make sure that this happens.

Councilwoman Rudley – That would be wonderful.

Councilman Austin – This E-waste will be delivered down to Public Works?

Council President Pierpont – Yes, the same set up as before, you will have to report first to the office at Public Works to let them know what you are doing.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 37, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting the Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund’s Safety Programs

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 38, 2016 - 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: Change of Employment Status for Particular Employees of the Pitman Police

Department

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman & AFSCME Local 3303B

Personnel: PT Construction Office Assistant Candidates

Action may be taken.

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 39, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting Raising Awareness of Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (F.O.P.)

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event & Signage Permit Applications

Applicant: Jack Kostiuk

Organization: Kids Caring Foundation

Event & Signage: Kids Walk/Run

Date & Time: Saturday, April 2; 7:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Alcyon Park, Track and Pavilion

Contact Person: Jack Kostiuk

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event application was approved contingent upon the submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured

Applicant: Ed Powell

Organization: Pitman Athletic Association

Event & Signage: PAA Monthly Board Meetings

Date & Time: See attached

Location: Council Chambers

Contact Person: Ed Powell

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event application was approved contingent upon the submission of a renewed Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured in June 2016.

Applicant: SPARC-Kids Caring Foundation

Signage: 5K Race

Date & Time: Saturday, May 21, 2016

Location: See attached application

Contact Person: Lisa McConnell

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:28 p.m.

Cynthia Ventura, 162 East Avenue – Ms. Ventura said that the fire department again responded to a fire alarm at 166 East Avenue. She said that the alarm goes off repeatedly at the property. She also mentioned that there is a heavy smell of kerosene coming from the property.

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin said that he spoke with the Solicitor tonight, and that he will be looking into the status of any permits, and also looking at what can be done to make the owner more compliant. He also said that we should be sure to keep Councilwoman Rudley involved, as many of the issues are related to law enforcement.

Ms. Ventura said that work at the building located at 64 S. Broadway, continues into the night, sometimes as late as 3:00 a.m. She also noted that there is no dumpster located on the property for the construction debris.

Mayor Johnson advised that if there are violations to the noise ordinance, Ms. Ventura must call the Police Department when they are occurring.

Jennifer Cravaro, 30A S. Broadway –Ms. Cravaro expressed concern over the parking issues in the downtown area, both as a business owner and resident. She stated her opinion that residents who pay for a Borough parking permit should be guaranteed a spot.

Marge Monahan, 203 East Avenue – Ms. Monahan stated her opinion that the Borough is in need of a “lift”. She also expressed her concern over the many empty stores along Broadway.

Mayor Johnson replied that while he agreed that the Borough has issues with parking, he stressed that the restaurants are booming but that we are need of additional retail. He stated that there are many new businesses coming onto town, thanks to the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce.

