

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2016**

Call to Order

Time: 8:05 p.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 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
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Borough Solicitor Alice: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session & Formal Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2016

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

The McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees is off for the summer. The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2016. During the month of June, 6,048 people visited the library, and 245 children attended Storytime programs.

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board met on July 18, where nine Historic Applications were reviewed, and a minor subdivision for 26 Bellevue Avenue was approved.

I would also like to thank everyone involved for supporting our Police Department, and for attending the great function that was held last Thursday in support of the officers.

Councilman Razze read the following report:

Thank you to Mayor Johnson, Administrator O'Donnell, Chief McAteer, and to all those who were involved in putting together such a well attended and well run event last week to support not only just our local police department, but many other officers in departments around the county.

At the Pitman Soccer Association meeting last week there were some concerns expressed with regard to access to the fields at the Dell, from Lambs Road. We have a constant issue with individuals removing the barricade and taking vehicles onto the fields and that part of the Dell. Jared Harmon is working to resolve the problem with a more permanent solution after trying to repair what we have in place. Pitman Soccer Association is willing to contribute and assist in anyway that they can.

Jared Harmon and the Alcyon Park crew were down at Glen Lake this past week with an electrician to fix the problem at the power source for the fountain, and to also remove some trees and debris that had fallen into the lake.

This Thursday I will be attending the first day of the Tri-County Joint Insurance Fund's Annual Retreat. At this two day long event, the members of the JIF gather to discuss issues effecting municipalities and exposures that are on the horizon. I'm sure that Administrator O'Donnell is attending too, and also looking forward to it.

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee reported that the new tax bills have been mailed, and the third quarter 2016 taxes are due on August 15. The due date was extended from August 1, to August 15, due to our bills being mailed to residents a little late.

Our tax rate is \$4.12 per \$100.00 of the average assessed value of a home in Pitman.

County tax rate is 67.1 cents

County open space is 4.4 cents

School tax is 2 dollars and 37.8 cents

Library tax is 3.5 cents

Local Municipal tax is 99.1 cents

Councilwoman Higbee said that last Thursday evening she had the honor of attending the program in Ballard Park that was held to recognize and offer support to our law enforcement officers. Mrs. Higbee said that because her son is a law enforcement officer, she is painfully aware of these troubling times. She said that it was so nice to be able to show a special level of respect to the officers during these present struggles.

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley said that on behalf of the Pitman Police Department, she wished to thank Mayor and Council for a spectacular evening this past Thursday when the department was honored at the Police Appreciation Rally.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following statement from Chief McAteer:

“What Mayor and Council did in one evening restored a lot of officer’s pride and faith in how the police are supported and treated. The vigil for the fallen officers was very sobering and gave many of us the opportunity to pay our respects. Lastly, the recognition that you gave to our families.....we cannot put a value on that because it truly is, the most important aspect to us! So, again, thank you all!

The Pitman Police Department also wishes to thank all the residents who have sent gifts of food and drink over the last few weeks to show their gratitude and support. I am in the process of sending thank you cards to those residents.

I am sorry if I did not get the opportunity to provide you each with a “Thin Blue Line” bracelet at the event on Thursday. I have put a bracelet in each Council Member’s mailbox. Please feel free to wear them in support of Law Enforcement, or give them to somebody of your choosing to do so. It should be noted that those bracelets were very kindly donated by Mrs. Jill Leach (Wife of Patrolman Chris Leach). The PPD thanks Jill for her generosity and kindness.”

Councilwoman Rudley attended the Board of Fire Engineers meeting on July 19, and the Board will meet again on August 16. They traditionally meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

The Economic Development Committee met on July 21. The members continue their good works and efforts to deal with parking issues in our town, to promote the businesses, and to bring individuals in from out of town. They will meet again on the third Thursday of each month, with their August meeting being on August 18.

Mayor Johnson took a moment to thank Administrator O’Donnell, Chief McAteer, and Lt. Owens for their work on the police appreciation event. He explained that the event was roughly planned in eight days, and Mayor Johnson wanted to especially thank Chief McAteer and Lt. Owens for the amount of work that they had to put in, from providing security, to making sure that the event was safe not only for the residents, but for the Police Department. Mayor Johnson said that unfortunately, sometimes these positive events provide an opportunity to bring out the negative element. He thanked them for providing the security for all in attendance that night.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 7, 2016 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter XXXV Entitled “ZONING” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Austin

Second: Razze

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:12 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze
Time 8:13 p.m.

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

New Business

Ordinance No. 8, 2016 – Bond Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and the Acquisition of Various Pieces of Equipment In and For the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$454,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$418,300 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Ordinance No. 9, 2016 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appropriating \$50,000 for the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Water and Sewer Utility

First Reading

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Ordinance No. 10, 2016 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 10, 2015 Establishing the Salaries and Wages For Employees of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, For the Year 2016 and Forward

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 109, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Extending the Due Date for Third Quarter 2016 Taxes

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 110, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund/Cancellation of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 111, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation and/or Refund of Taxes Due to the Property Owner Meeting the Requirements of a 100% Disabled Veteran as Set Forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and is Exempt From Paying Property Taxes

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 112, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Affirming the Civil Rights Policy With Respect to All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, and Members of the Public That Come Into Contact With Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Rudley

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Event Permit Applications

Applicant: Susan Marie Rupp Foundation
Event: Teal Ribbons of Hope
Dates: September 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016
Location: Lamp posts and trees along Broadway and in Ballard Park
Contact Person: Ruth McCullen

Motion: Razzo
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Austin

Councilman Blass: Absent
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razzo
Time: 8:24 p.m.

Second: Austin

Sean Bernard, 345 Grandview Avenue - Mr. Bernard stated that roots from his neighbor's tree, which are along his property line, have grown into the borough's sewer main, down the main, and he fears they will grow up into his sewer line. Mr. Bernard said that this was the situation a few years ago when he had to replace the terracotta sewer main at his home, and it was confirmed by his plumber when he opened the property to do the repair. Mr. Bernard asked if Public Works employees could put a root cutter down the main to grind the roots that are present there, and to hopefully stop them from going up into his line once again.

Councilman Razzo said that he will contact Public Works Manager Steve Alexander, and Council President Pierpont, tonight, to make arrangements to have someone come out to the property as soon as possible to take a look.

Motion to close the public portion: Razzo
Time: 8:28 p.m.

Second: Austin

Miscellaneous

Councilman Razzo advised residents who may be faced with an unusually high water bill to check around their property for running water or leaks. He said that he received such a bill, and found that an outside faucet had been left on for an undetermined amount of time, most likely causing the increased usage amount, and subsequent high bill.

Adjournment

Motion: Razzo

Second: Austin

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator