

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2016**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 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: Present
Council President Pierpont: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Borough Solicitor Alice: Present

Proclamation Presentation

Councilman Razze, Chairman of the Pitman Parade Committee, announced that Pitman resident Harry "Hap" McCleish has been selected to be the Grand Marshal of the 2016 Fourth of July Parade. The letter nominating Mr. McCleish was read, and he was presented with a plaque honoring him as the Grand Marshal.

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2016

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

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

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

McCowan Memorial Library – The Library's Board of Trustees are off for the summer. They will meet

again on September 27, 2016.

Combined Planning/Zoning Board – I attended the last meeting of the Board on June 20. Four Historic Applications were reviewed and approved. The progress of the renovations of the old Merritt’s building was noted, and that it is proceeding well. The next meeting of the Board will be on July 18th.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported that last Friday, during the Fourth Friday event, he and Councilwoman Higbee, and Mayor Johnson took part in the Friends of the Grove dedication of a birdhouse that was built to resemble the Grove Auditorium. Once the post is complete, the birdhouse will be placed in the garden on First Avenue.

Councilman Razzo

Councilman Razzo announced that the Borough’s Fourth of July festivities will start Saturday night with the Miss Pitman Pageant, which will be held at the Pitman High School Auditorium, beginning at 7:45 p.m. Tickets will be sold here at Borough Hall on June 30, and July 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The annual Pitman Freedom Four Mile Road Race will be held the morning of the 4th prior to the start of the parade. Race registrations can be found online on the Borough website. The parade starts at 9:45 a.m. and the line-up list for the parade will be going out to the participants tonight. Anyone willing and able to volunteer is more than welcome to come out.

The fireworks will be at dusk at Alcyon Park. We do have a limited number of tickets available for viewing, and we ask for a \$3.00 donation for those tickets. Tickets can be picked up for the donation at Borough Hall, or at Main Street Financial on Woodbury Road.

Councilman Razzo said that earlier this evening he attended a TRICO Joint Insurance Fund meeting. In the Work Session meeting, he showed all members of Council a banner that reminds employees to work safely within the Borough, and it also reminds us of the 25th Anniversary being celebrated by the JIF. Councilman Razzo thanked Administrator O’Donnell for taking the time to complete the Technology Audit and Assessment, to the best of her ability.

Councilman Razzo also thanked Finance Office employee Nancy Yurick for all of her help with getting the parade contracts out, and then collecting them when they were returned, and for also emailing him every time one was returned.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

The work on Spruce, Elsie, and Elm Avenues is proceeding nicely. The new water main is hooked up and running with no problems reported from residents. Curbs and sidewalks are going in as needed and hopefully asphalt will be applied very soon to wrap up that project.

The work on N. Brentwood Avenue is moving along as well. The storm water system was installed, so I’m hopeful that area will be settled soon as well.

Our engineer is working on the bid package for the projected work on Hudson Avenue. I hope to have that information available to Mayor and Council shortly.

Public Works has started ordering the plants needed to install Pitman's second rain garden. These gardens, as well as the catch basin, are used to naturally absorb rain water and avoid excessive storm runoff. This new garden will be installed at the corner of Holly Avenue and Delsea Drive. This work is being coordinated with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee reported that at the June 14 Community Night Out, Clean Communities and the Green Team had an informational table set up. Mrs. Higbee used some of the grant funds to purchase 250 canvas shopping bags which were given to residents who signed and pledged to agree to not use plastic bags for shopping.

On June 17, the Borough's Tax Collector, Beth Walls, conducted a tax sale for delinquent 2015 taxes. Twenty-eight properties were for sale, and twenty-seven were sold.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

The following is my report for the Council meeting being held this evening, Monday, June 27, 2016. Please let me know if you need any clarification or have any questions.

The Pitman Police Department will have added patrols during the 4th of July weekend for traffic enforcement and other issues that may arise.

Please remember that personal fireworks are illegal throughout the State of New Jersey and this ban is strictly enforced.

On Thursday, June 30, the Pitman Police Department will be holding another "Coffee with a Cop" at the WaWa on Woodbury Road from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Various Borough Department Supervisors will also be in attendance, as well as the possibility of some Council members.

The Pitman Police Department has received several thank you letters and/or phone calls citing officer friendliness, professionalism, and helpfulness over the past two weeks for the following officers:

- Sgt. Zander
- Ptl. Leach
- Ptl. Parker & K9 Ranger
- Ptl. Pierson
- Ptl. Stefanopoulos
- Ptl. Bailey

School is out for summer and the PPD will be focusing on traffic enforcement; please be alert and drive safely!

The Board of Fire Engineers met on June 21, and discussed the 369 actions that have been handled by

the Fire Safety Office. They will ramp up enforcement on churches and apartment complexes that we have in town. In addition, that very night, the siren at Highland Chemical was fixed. This is a very important safety notification that we have in town to let residents know that firetrucks will be in the area.

The Economic Development Commission met on its usual date of the third Thursday of each month. It was a lightly attended meeting due to coinciding with the Pitman High School Graduation.

I want to thank everyone who came out and volunteered for the Borough's Community Night Out.

New Business

Ordinance No. 6, 2016 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Restricting the Sale Dogs and Cats From Pet Shops Located in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

First Reading

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 _____

***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 (Austin)**

*This ordinance was removed from the agenda pending the addition of language clarifying certain sections of the ordinance. It will be on the July 11, 2016 Formal Meeting Agenda for first reading.

Resolution No. 93, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87; Police Body Worn Cameras

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

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. 94 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87; 2016 Click It of Ticket Program

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 95, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87; 2016 Clean Communities Grant

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. 96, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Establishing and Adopting a Complete Streets Policy

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: No

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 97, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Cancellation/Refund of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds

Motion: Higbee

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. 98, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Renewal of the Prescription Drug Management Services Agreement With Benecard Services, Inc.

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. 99, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving an Increase in the Amount of Hours to be Worked

and a Salary Rate Increase for the Code Enforcement Officer of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Austin

Second: Razze

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. 100, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving an Hourly Pay Rate Increase for the Position of Construction/Housing Part-time Clerk

Motion: Austin

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 101, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Reclassification of Gregory L. Martin From Seasonal Employee to Part-time Laborer for the Public Works Highway Division of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester

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. 102, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Danielle Cooke as a Member of the Borough of Pitman Environmental Commission

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. 103, 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:

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman & Teamsters Union Local 676

Action may be taken.

Motion: Pierpont

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: Abstains to #32295 & #14422; votes to approve all other bills

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit Applications

Applicant: House of Praise

Event: 4th Friday Outdoor Family Movie Night

Movies: The Wizard of Oz (Original Version; Rated G)

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (Original Version; Rated G)

Date & Time: July 22 & August 26, 2016; 8:30 pm

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Contact Person: Dan Munyon

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: 8:33 p.m.

Mary Ellen Dragone, 445 West Avenue – Ms. Dragone voiced her opinion that the condition of the homes on West Avenue is “going downhill” due to the lack of maintenance by the landlords that own the rental properties. The grass is overgrown on many of the properties, the homes are in disrepair, no Certificates of Continued Occupancy are being obtained between tenants, and animals are getting into the houses due to the rundown conditions. Ms. Dragone stated that she and her husband own several rental properties in Glassboro, and they pay \$160.00 annually for inspections by the Glassboro Housing

Office. She asked Council why Pitman cannot regulate the rental properties as strongly as Glassboro does.

Mayor Johnson explained that the Borough is in the process of hiring additional inspectors for the Fire Safety Office to perform annual inspections on the rental properties in Pitman. He also said that the annual fee that Glassboro and other municipalities have been charging has been the subject of recent litigation against those towns as being illegal. That is the reason why Pitman has been reluctant to impose the same type of fee on the rental properties here until the courts decide on the legality issue of such fees. The Borough believes that we can accomplish the same type of enforcement as Glassboro, but instead of doing it through the Housing Office, the inspections would be performed by the Fire Safety Office, which is the reason for hiring additional personnel in the near future.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze Second: Blass
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Pierpont Second: Higbee
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Blass Second: Austin
Time: 8:56 p.m.

As a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting, the following action was taken after returning to an Open Meeting.

A **Motion** was made by Councilman Pierpont to move forward to the mediation phase in the contract negotiations with Teamsters Union Local 676, representing the employees of the Water and Sewer Division of the Public Works Department of the Borough of Pitman.

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 _____

Adjournment

Motion: Razze Second: Austin
Time: 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

