

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 24, 2017
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:10 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

Councilman Razzo

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 2017, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 7, 2017.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Present
Councilwoman Higbee: Present
Councilman Razzo: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal, and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2017

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Absent
Councilman Razzo: Abstain to Work Session Minutes, Approves Formal Meeting Minutes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

McCowan Memorial Library

I attended the Library Board of Trustees meeting on March 28th. During the month of March, 5631 individuals visited the library. The next Library Board of Trustees meeting will be April 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Combined Planning & Zoning Board

I attended the Combined Planning and Zoning Board meeting on April 17th. Seven Historic Applications were discussed, and five were approved. The next meeting will be May 15th.

Housing and Code Enforcement

Tonight, Collingswood Mayor Jim Maley spoke to us concerning their actions on vacant housing. It was very informative, and Council will be discussing this further in the future.

Councilman Blass

The Historic Commission met on April 13. Seven applications were approved. The Commission made suggestions on about half of them, all of which were acceptable to the applicants.

Councilman Blass commended those involved in the planning of the Grove Easter Egg Hunt. When he arrived at 9:00 a.m. to open up the Auditorium, he was amazed at all of the preparation that had taken place. Councilman Blass said that he knows that Vanessa James was the lead organizer, but there were at least a dozen others who helped make the activity a success. He said that he, Councilwoman Higbee, and Chairwoman Jane McCausland manned the museum, where about thirty children engaged in a scavenger hunt.

This past Saturday, the Boy Scouts took part in a Clean Communities Clean-up of the rain garden next to the museum. I want to thank them for their hard work in getting the garden back in shape.

Councilman Razzo read the following report:

Youth Week is approaching, and you should have all received your contact information for your Youth Week representatives. The Pitman High School Senior Class Trip is this weekend, and that will make it difficult for a couple of people, but try to make contact as soon as possible, and please send your topic to Recreation Director Andy Fox so he can include it on the agenda that's being compiled for the meeting. Please also be sure to ask your Department Supervisor's to make contact with their appointed representatives this week.

The Youth Week Council Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. April 30. The Middle School Dance will be on April 28, May 1 is Movie Night at the Broadway Theatre, May 2 is the Middle School Talent Show at 7:00 p.m., May 3 is High Elevation's Night in Sewell; \$5.00 for one hour of jumping, and the time is any time between 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. May 5 is Career Day in Borough Hall, and May 6 will be the Track and Field Meet at Pitman High School, and also the Fishing Tournament at Alcyon Lake.

Parade registration is now open on the parade website, pitmanparade.com until June, and nominations are currently being sought for the Grand Marshal for the 2017 Independence Day Parade. Nominations will be accepted until May 20.

The Recreation Department programs for tennis, T-ball, golf, and track and field are ongoing. Football sign-ups were last week for the fall, and soccer sign-ups will be in the evening on May 4, 5, and 6, in the Pitman High School cafeteria. Baseball and softball are well underway at the parks, along with spring soccer.

I also had the opportunity this last week to sit through a webinar for the Joint Insurance Fund pertaining to our cyber liability coverage.

Tomorrow morning I will be in Vineland to serve on a subcommittee for re-evaluating our Certificate of Insurance guidelines for the municipality. They have not been updated in the last eleven years.

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee reported that Memorial and Kindle Schools completed their Clean Communities clean-ups on April 10, and Walls School is doing their clean-up today and tomorrow.

This past Saturday, Boy Scout Troop 55 did a clean-up at the rain garden on the Circle Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Michelle LaPlante, a Grove resident who has been working in the garden since it was first completed, Josh Hitchner, Shade Tree Commissioner on the Environmental Commission, and Councilman Blass worked with the Scouts in directing their efforts. This clean-up effort was terrific, and everyone is to be commended. This garden has been the site of well intended, though improper, care. Going forward, with the help of Mr. Hitchner, we hope to keep it as a proper rain garden.

Councilwoman Higbee received thank you notes from Mrs. Boyle's fourth grade and Principal Debbie Calabree of Memorial School thanking Clean Communities for the assembly, Quiet Riot. The assembly tied in with the science unit on fossil fuels and teaches respect for our home, Earth.

On Saturday, April 15, Councilwoman Higbee said that she had the pleasure of helping at the Museum during the Friends of the Grove Egg Hunt. Thanks goes to Vanessa James and everyone who helped her with this terrific event. The museum had a scavenger hunt and it seemed to be a hit.

The Municipal Alliance Senior Citizen Luncheon will be held on June 1, at noon, at Mannino's Restaurant. Invitations will be sent to previous attendees. If you know of anyone who would like their name added to the mailing list, please phone Borough Hall. Thanks to Administrator O'Donnell for arranging this event.

This Friday evening, from 5:30 to 7:00 in Ballard Park, the Environmental Commission will be hosting a tree planting in honor of Arbor Day. Everyone is invited.

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley reported that the Board of Fire Engineers meets on the third Tuesday of every month. They did not meet in April, as there were not enough members in attendance for a quorum.

The Pitman Police Department announced that on Monday, May 1, the Gloucester County Police Awards Committee will host the 2016 Annual Police Awards Banquet. The Pitman Police Department is proud to acknowledge the following officers and the awards that they will be receiving:

Unit Citation

Cpl. Chris Leach
Cpl. Andy Carson
Ptl. Marshall Pierson
SLEO Christine Osinski

The Unit Citation Award is given in acknowledgment of the various community events that these officers were instrumental in organizing, setting up, and running.

Distinguished Service Award

Sgt. Thomas Zander
Ptl. EJ Parker
Ptl. Eric Bailey

The Distinguished Service Award is being awarded to the officers for assisting with a fire on Evergreen Avenue. Their efforts with local firefighters resulted in the safe removal of residents from the burning home.

New Business

Ordinance No. 4, 2017 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Organize, Regulate, and Control the Pitman Fire Department In and

For the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Discussion

Councilman Austin stated his opinion that Council should be involved in preparing this ordinance, and that the Public Safety Director should be permitted to vote on issues presented at the Board of Fire Engineers meetings. He mentioned a few sections of the ordinance that he feels need clarification or that should be changed, such as which members of the Board would be listed a voting members.

Councilwoman Rudley said that the ordinance, as presented, was unanimously approved by the voting members of the Board of Fire Engineers, as well as the members of Fire Company #1 and Highland Chemical Engine Company.

Councilman Razzo questioned why a suspended firefighter is permitted to vote in their elections. Councilwoman Rudley said that the concern was that if they were not permitted to vote while suspended, it would give the Borough Chief too much control over who could or could not vote. Councilman Austin noted that most suspensions are given by the Chief of the particular fire house of the member.

Councilman Blass had a question about the section that stipulated polling places.

Councilwoman Rudley said that she will discuss the concerns expressed by Council at the next Board of Fire Engineers meeting, as well as any modifications that should be made to the ordinance prior to the second reading on May 22, 2017.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 77, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Schaefer Fireworks for a Fourth of July Fireworks Display

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 78, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Quote From Wible’s Tree Service, LLC and Authorizing a Tax Lien on the Property Known as 229 East Avenue, Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey, and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 25 Lot 25

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 79, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for 2016 Community Development Block Grant South Broadway Sidewalk Repair Project to Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 80, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Borough of Pitman Fire Official Ryan Pierson to Attend the “Fifth Annual Forensic Fire Death Investigations” Class and Authorizes Funds for Registration and Additional Per Diem Expenses Associated With Attendance

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 81, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to ABS Electric, Inc. for the Installation of Electric Service for the Broadway and Holly Avenue LED Sign Display

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 82, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Sign Boy TM for the Installation of a Digital Message Sign for the Broadway and Holly Avenue LED Sign Project

Motion: Rudley

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 83, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing an Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Natural and Historic Resources Historic Preservation Office for Participation in the New Jersey Certified Local Government Program (CLG)

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

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

Resolution No. 84, 2017 – 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 Matters: Use of Sick, Personal and Vacation Time

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Blass

Second: Razzo

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes, Abstain #33650, #33665

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit & Signage Applications

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce/Patti Forte

***Event: Fourth Friday**

Location: Broadway and Ballard Park

Date & Time: Fourth Friday each month; May - November 2017 (Event: 6pm - 9pm)

Contact Person: Lisa Morgey

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

*Approved contingent upon providing the Borough of Pitman with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Applicant: McCowan Memorial Library/Patti Forte

Event: Karaoke

Date & Time: May 26, 2017; 6pm

Location: Ballard Park cement patio

Contact Person: Patti Forte

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

*Approved contingent upon providing the Borough of Pitman with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:52 p.m.

Patti Kelley, 125 Pitman Avenue – Mrs. Kelley asked when the repairs will be made to the streets and sidewalks affected by the South Jersey Gas project.

Administrator O'Donnell replied that there are three companies currently working on the project, and that the Borough has been compiling a punch list of areas to be addressed every time a resident calls in with a complaint of damage.

Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue – Mr. Madison stated that on Circle Avenue, in the area of the rain garden, water runoff collects there because the storm sewer grate is higher than the sidewalk, so the water never drains off in that area. He suggested that something be done to enable the water to enter the storm drain or be directed into the rain garden.

Pitman Fire Department Chief Bruce Scott, 171 W. Jersey Avenue – Chief Scott said that the Board of Fire Engineers welcomes Council's input on parts of Ordinance No. 4, 2017, but stated that writing this ordinance has been a long process and that it has been approved by the Board of Fire Engineers and also by each station. Chief Scott also said that the Borough Fire Marshal has never voted on the Board of Fire Engineers. Chief Scott further stated that the Public Safety Director, in most cases, has no knowledge of fire operations, so therefore should not have a vote on the Board. Also, in the new ordinance, the position of Fire Marshal is not being eliminated. Rather, the current Fire Marshal will be moved to a different position as the Chief Fire Investigator.

Chief Scott, referring to the redevelopment of the property located at West Holly Avenue and Lambs Road, said that the Borough should consider developing some type of ratable, such as a hotel. That way, the Borough will be involved with all the developing that is going to be happening in the Richwood area in the near future.

Councilman Austin corrected Chief Scott's statement that the Borough Fire Marshal has never voted on issues before the Board of Fire Engineers. He said that he is aware of numerous times that the Fire Marshal has voted in the past.

Jim Fortney 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney suggested that Council revisit the parking ordinance. He said that he would rather see parking on the street, than to see residents parking their cars on the front lawn of their homes.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

