

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 27, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:00 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 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 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 and Formal Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2017

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilman Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Council President Pierpont: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Abstains to Work Session, Approves Formal Meeting Minutes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Reports**

**Councilman Austin** read the following report:

I attended the February 28 Library Board of Trustees meeting where it was reported that in the month of February approximately 5,630 individuals visited the library, and 348 children attended Story Time. The next meeting of the Board will be on March 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

I also attended the meeting of the Combined Planning and Zoning Board on March 20. One Historic Application was approved with the caveat that the current sign above Star Nails would be inspected by the Borough's Building Inspector, and may have to be removed or repaired. Also presented to the Board

was a draft of the amendment to Pitman's Master Plan. Anyone who would like a copy of the amendment should let me know.

The Code Enforcement Officer continues to inspect properties in an attempt to clean up the vacant properties. It is a never ending struggle attempting to locate the owners and getting them to comply with Borough ordinances. I am happy to report that we have finally received a commitment that the house at 520 Hudson Avenue will be rehabilitated.

On a final note, I would like to express my thanks to all the hard workers in the Borough, and also for the fine work by the Police Department in removing more poison from our streets.

**Councilman Blass**

Councilman Blass reported that on March 24, he was in attendance at a special event at Pitman High School called "Every Fifteen Minutes". It was performed by our local first responders along with support from the county. It was a program designed to get students to stop and think before drinking and driving. The program was organized by Nick Seran, a Pitman High School student, and it involved several local businesses who donated items. Vehicles were used, helicopters flew in, students acted as injured parties, and a makeup artist came to help create "injuries". The program did what it was intended to do; get students to stop and think. Hopefully, the program will prevent someone from doing something careless. Councilman Blass thanked our first responders for taking part in the program.

Councilman Blass also reported that at this meeting, Council will be asked to award a contract to a company who will assess the Grove Auditorium and develop a preservation plan for the building. This is the next step in working to protect this property which has played such an important part in the Borough's history.

**Councilman Razzo**

Councilman Razzo reported that he recently attended the third of four planned sessions with the Pitman Board of Education. This was a very unique session in that the participants did a bit of role playing which included interviewing a teen from Pitman High School who had won an international award for the innovated approach to learning for a student of 2030.

Also at that meeting, Councilman Razzo said that he spoke briefly with Pitman School Superintendent Patrick McAleer regarding the school tax for the 2017-2018 school year. They are currently looking at a 6.6 cent increase in the school tax rate. Mr. McAleer will be at the May 8 Work Session meeting to present their final budget.

Councilman Razzo announced that the Borough is receiving a dividend from our health insurance fund in the amount of \$134,347.00. These funds will be used to offset the cost of health insurance for Borough employees in 2017.

**Council President Pierpont** read the following report:

Public Works will begin spring leaf collection on April 10, and run with it until May 12. Please place leaves, and only leaves, at the curb for pick up. Any sticks, shrubs, grass clippings or other yard debris should be placed on the curb separately, or in a container for pick up. Please, only leaves in the gutter for pick up.

Any resident who would like a dump truck delivered to their home for large items of yard debris, should call 589-1040 and schedule a drop off. This service is provided for residents free of charge.

Our Water and Sewer Division will begin flushing all fire hydrants on or about April 3. Some residents may experience a slight drop in water pressure, or discoloration in their water after the hydrants are flushed. Residents are advised to run their taps until the sediment disappears.

Three different types of leaf mulch are available to residents free of charge. Please visit our website or call Public Works at 589-1040 to schedule your delivery.

The trash and recycling amounts for the period of March 13 through March 24 are as follows:

- Ten loads of trash for a total of 106 tons

- Eleven loads of recycling for a total of 43 tons

- One hundred one yards of brush

- Forty yards of leaves were delivered to Duffield's Farm for composting

- Five loads of mulch were delivered to residents, and one resident took advantage of the dump truck drop off for yard debris removal.

### **Councilwoman Higbee**

Councilwoman Higbee reported that the 2017 municipal budget is still available for review at Borough Hall and McCowan Memorial Library. Council will be voting on the 2017 budget at the April 10 Formal Meeting.

The Municipal Alliance Grant year is coming to an end on June 30. The projects that will be sponsored soon are Community Appreciation Day, the Police Department's Fishing Tournament, Summer Playground activities, and the Renaissance Club at the high school.

The Senior Citizen Luncheon is in the final planning stages, and we will announce the date at our next Council meeting.

Spring Clean Communities clean-up has begun. This past Saturday, Habitat for Humanity did a clean up at Betty Park. Boy Scout Troop 55 and the fifth grade students from the three Pitman elementary schools are next on the schedule.

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on April 6, at 7:30 p.m., in Borough Hall.

**Councilwoman Rudley** read the following report:

#### Fire Department

Our Fire Department has worked diligently for the first quarter of the year for residents of Pitman, and as back-up patrols throughout the County. We should all be commending them for their incredible, unpaid, efforts.

#### Economic Development Committee

A large number of EDC members are actively working on the Broadway Theatre Open House event, which is scheduled to take place on April 9, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with a talent show as the finale. The Travel Channel's, Don Wildman, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the 7:00 – 9:00 events. Mr. Malcolm's Children's Theatre will be putting on a free show at noon, and there will be

numerous other incredible events. Donations will accepted by the Chamber in support of the Theatre Avenue Project.

The EDC is also working on the Thursday evening pop-up park events, as the Chamber of Commerce will no longer be handling this function.

There is currently a Shop and Stroll Pitman scavenger hunt taking place. See the Shop and Stroll Facebook page for more details. You do not need Facebook (or the internet) to play, so please call me at (609) 214-6342 if you would like to play.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Outreach Committee met on March 16, and developed a plan for the first year’s business. The initial plan is to collect information about existing resources for seniors, and to disseminate this information to our senior citizen population. From there, we will identify additional programs and opportunities we may be able to explore, including an Information Fair regarding the various county, state, federal, and non-profit opportunities and resources available.

Pitman Police Department

Fliers and T-Shirts for the 2017 Community Appreciation Day, being held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 in Alcyon Lake Park, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. are in the process of being printed.

Roadway construction and repair continues throughout the Borough. The Police Department thanks everyone for their patience and understanding and asks that you please drive safely.

A letter was received from Mr. Mark Letiziano, Principal of the Archway Program’s Upper School, thanking the PPD and Chief McAteer for presenting a K-9 assembly for the students. The letter emphasizes the “amazing job” that Patrolmen EJ Parker and Peter Stefanopoulos did with the presentation, specifically with the special education students. Both officers are commended for an outstanding job. These types of presentations are invaluable to the PPD and its K-9 Unit, and go a long way toward building and reinforcing our relationships with the public in general, but specifically with our youth.

New Business

**Ordinance No. 3, 2017 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank**

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Motion to open to the public: Razze  
Time 8:13 p.m.

Second: Blass

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze  
Time 8:14 p.m.

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Resolution No. 61, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of the Performance of Board-up Services for 520 Hudson Avenue, Block 209 Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Resolution No. 62, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of the Performance of Board-up Services for 132 Linden Avenue, Block 133 Lot 5 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Resolution No. 63, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Appointment and Hiring of Justin Baker as a Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO), Class II**

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Resolution No. 64, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for Resurfacing of Hudson Avenue-Section II to Charles Marandino, LLC**

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes

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

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

**Resolution No. 65, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for the Building Condition Assessment and Preservation Plan for the Pitman Grove Auditorium**

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

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. 66, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Advertising and Procurement of Proposals for a Concession Agreement for Advertising Space on the Borough’s Municipal Sign**

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

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. 67, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Staffing and Apparatus Usage for 126 Sixth Avenue, Block 19 Lot 9 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: Higbee

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. 68, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019 Amended Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Borough of Pitman and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO District Council 71, Local 3303B**

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No

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 Permit Applications/Signage/Use of Facilities**

**Applicant: Carolyn Feldhaus**

**Event: Relay for Life Paint the Town Purple**

Location: Broadway, Lambs Road to Jefferson Ave. (Ribbons on Borough-owned lamp posts)

Date & Time: May 6, 2017 (9am - 2pm) – June 6, 2017

Contact Person: Carolyn Feldhaus

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant: Friends of the Grove**

**\*Event: Easter Egg Hunt Spring Party**

Date & Time: April 15, 2017 (9:30am – Noon)

Location: Grove Auditorium, and lawn, and Community Garden

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

\*Approved contingent upon signing a Facilities Use Agreement Form for the Grove Auditorium.

**Applicant: Amy Rudley**

**Event: Ghost Tour**

Date & Time: October 26, 27, 28, 2017; (6pm – 9pm) and October 29, 2017; (2pm - 4pm)

Location: Grove and Sunset Auditoriums

Contact Person: Amy Rudley

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 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Approved contingent upon signing a Facilities Use Agreement Form for the Grove Auditorium.

**Raffle Amendment**

**Applicant: WCK Walls HSA**

**Event: Year of Dining Raffle**

Date & Time:

From: November 4, 2016

To: April 24, 2017 (12pm – 9pm)

Location: Pitman High School, 225 Linden Ave.

Contact Person: Jennifer Mundie

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: 8:30 p.m.

**Chief Dan McAteer, Pitman Police Department** – Chief McAteer reminded members of Council about the Police Department Employee Reunion Breakfast to be held on April 1 at the VFW building. He invited all members to come and enjoy the breakfast and reconnect with former employees of the Police Department.

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



