

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2018**

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 2018, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 6, 2018.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Present

Councilman Pierpont: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present

Mayor Johnson: Present

Borough Auditor Nick Petroni: Present

Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Council President Blass: Present

Councilman Razze: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Borough Solicitor Scaffidi: Present

Borough CFO Steve Considine: Present

American Legion Second Annual Coloring Contest

Representatives from the American Legion, Elwood Kindle Post 49, David DeClement, Jerry Delia, and Ron Murschell were in attendance, with Mr. Murschell presenting the following awards:

1st Place \$100.00 - Amgiah Riley

2nd Place \$50.00 - Blaine Ackerman

3rd Place \$25.00 – Rebecca Mazzola

It was also announced at this time that Amgiah Riley's entry was the First Place Winner at the County level, and has been submitted as the Gloucester County entry in the State competition.

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Formal Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2018

Motion: Weng

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 4, 2018 – 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: Austin

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:15 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public comment: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:16 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Final Adoption of 2018 Municipal Budget

Resolution No. 58, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the 2018 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

2018 Municipal Budget Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution of the Borough of Pitman for the year 2018 was approved by the Borough Council on March 12, 2018, and was published in the “South Jersey Times” in the issue of March 30, 2018. Copies were made available for public inspection in Pitman Borough Hall and the McCowan Memorial Library since March 13, 2018.

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:16 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public comment: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:17 p.m.

Resolution No. 59, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending the 2018 Budget

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Motion to adopt 2018 Municipal Budget Resolution: Blass

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Ordinance No. 6, 2018 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter III Entitled “Police Regulations” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Statement by Councilwoman Rudley:

This ordinance changes the Borough ordinance with respect to the provision of alcohol on public property.

This will allow the granting, at the discretion of Council, of a Special Event Permit for non-profit entities in, or of, the Borough of Pitman to hold three events per year which could include the serving of alcohol. The Economic Development Commission voted and approved the recommendation to Mayor and Council, and a copy of that recommendation, which was a joint recommendation from the Chamber of Commerce and the EDC, was sent to Mayor and Council with a copy of the proposed ordinance back in January. The Solicitor proposed some changes, which were incorporated at that time. This proposed ordinance was then discussed at the January 22, 2018 meeting in Work Session, and on February 12, 2018 in Work Session. Then this ordinance was placed on the Work Session agenda formally for the February 26 meeting with a proposed copy of the ordinance provided to each Council Member as part of their packet. There was a good amount of public comment regarding this issue. This proposed ordinance was again put on the March 12, 2018 agenda and a proposed copy of the ordinance was provided to each Council Member as part of their packet. The first reading of the ordinance was on March 26, 2018. Some revisions were requested and were included. The second reading of the ordinance is tonight with the incorporated changes that were proposed at the March 26 meeting.

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Rudley

Time: 8:23 p.m.

Vanessa James, 91 Circle Avenue - Ms. James said that she was appearing before Council in her role as the President of the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce. She expressed her appreciation on behalf of the business community for changing this ordinance and making it possible to give the Chamber ‘another tool in our tool belt’ to raise funds that will directly benefit the Pitman businesses.

Judith Lohmann, 330 Pitman Avenue – Ms. Lohmann stated that she does not think it is necessary to have beer gardens take place in public areas particularly where children are present, and especially at these

times when people are worried about drug use. She reminded everyone that alcohol is a drug. Also, Ms. Lohmann said that to allow each of the many non-profit organizations in the Borough the ability to host three events annually is totally unnecessary.

Barbara Stech, 755 N. Broadway – Ms. Stech expressed her concern about the possibility of having beer gardens in school parking lots at events such as the annual carnival. Councilwoman Rudley stated that the sites are restricted to Sunset Auditorium, Theatre Avenue and Alcyon Lake Park.

Ms. Stech expressed her wish that there was more public notice about these types of topics. She believes that this issue is unknown to many of the borough's residents.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue - Mr. Fortney asked why the three locations are not listed in the ordinance, and Councilwoman Rudley replied that they are listed on the Event Permit Addendum.

Mr. Fortney asked where the functions will be held at Alcyon Lake Park, and Councilwoman Rudley replied that the pavilion could be used and that she would be open to consider the parking lot, but not the ballfields.

Mr. Fortney asked if this could be written somewhere. Councilwoman Rudley said that she doesn't think a one-size-fits-all approach will work. She said that Council will consider the applications as they come in.

Mr. Fortney stated that it is alright for now with the same Council Members, but what about years from now when the Council membership changes? Councilwoman Rudley stated that future Council Members will be elected by the same people.

Mr. Fortney asked about start and end times for the events serving alcohol. Councilwoman Rudley replied that each event will be voted on three times, when Council considers the event permit, the special event permit and (inaudible).

Mr. Fortney asked if it would hold up in court. Borough Solicitor Scaffidi said that it would, and Councilwoman Rudley said that what would not hold up in court is if we set a time, and we make an exception to it in certain circumstances. She said that we are giving ourselves the flexibility to consider the night of the week and/or maybe the way the calendar falls. Councilwoman Rudley said that she has faith that if she is not here, that the next individual will make the right decision.

Mr. Fortney asked how this will help the downtown area. Councilwoman Rudley said that it was her understanding that it will help the Chamber of Commerce to raise money to support the Borough Bucks program which in turn will help the downtown.

Mr. Fortney asked what happened to the Borough Bucks program that existed prior to this. Councilman Pierpont replied that there was money in the account, which was controlled by the Chamber of Commerce.

Shari Hulitt, 335 Roosevelt Avenue – Ms. Hulitt stated that she was at the meeting in her role as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee. She stated that this proposal is unanimously supported by the EDC, and for many different reasons they believe this will be extremely beneficial to our

town. The brewery industry is a 350 billion dollar industry. People are drinking beer, and people are going outside of our community to participate in fundraisers that are outside of this community. The EDC would love to have the opportunity to allow our organizations to that here. This will bring a surge of people coming into our town, and publicity. This publicity will continue to build, and will bring in different organizations and investors to purchase some of our buildings and to continue to grow our uptown area. This was a great idea for this community.

Adam Mazzola 529 Florence Avenue - Mr. Mazzola thanked Mayor and Council for entertaining this idea and for voting for this. He said that it is a major fundraising opportunity for the borough, and is another opportunity to bring in additional events.

John Fitzpatrick, 25 Cyrus Avenue – Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he supports this ordinance, and that many of the beer/wine events he has attended have been very family friendly.

Patrick Bradley 121 N. Broadway – Mr. Bradley shared his support of the ordinance as a great opportunity to expand our reach and to grow our businesses.

Tammy Razze, 510 N. Broadway – “I’m going to use the word *tradition* and I’m going to also say *Pitmanite*. I’ve been here forever, I grew up in this town, that’s why Michael and I chose to stay here and raise our family. We’ve had 100 years of tradition as a dry town, and it has worked. Pitman is good, and it doesn’t need alcohol. Why? Why the push for alcohol at public events? Our downtown is growing, and it’s growing without alcohol.

BYOB, I’m all for it. Over 100 years of being a dry town. This is why people move here. If you don’t like our history, if you don’t like the traditions that we have here.... I’m tired of hearing what other places do. Guess what, we aren’t these other towns. We are Pitman, and this is what makes us unique. I’m all about change but the right change. So far everything has been working well without alcohol. What is the motivation?”

Councilwoman Rudley replied that it will bring people to town. She explained that Council has the ability to not approve events that are not appropriate, and that the Chamber is considering having some “adults only” events in the future.

Ms. Razze asked about enforcement. Councilwoman Rudley said that events will be more controlled based on the guidelines found in the New Jersey Social Affairs Permit Application. Ms. Razze asked Council Members to strongly consider before approving the ordinance.

Paul Bowen, 118 Fifth Avenue – Mr. Bowen said that in his experience, the controls are very strict at events where alcohol is served. He supports the ordinance.

Steve Altair, 24 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Altair said that beer gardens are very controlled, and it is his opinion that the local breweries have helped the local businesses.

Barbara Stech, 755 N. Broadway – Ms. Stech asked for clarification on if the ordinance states the permissible locations for beer gardens. Councilwoman Rudley said the locations are on the Addendum to the Event Permit, but not in the Ordinance. Not having it in the ordinance gives Council the ability to change the locations if necessary. Ms. Stech said that she wants to see specific locations in the ordinance.

Councilman Razze stated that he feels that Ms. Stech has a valid concern because not having the locations listed would permit the addition of other places in the future that were not approved previously.

Councilman Pierpont said that as the Council Liaison to the Chamber, he had to be convinced at their meetings of the benefits of allowing alcohol consumption on Borough property, and now realizes that it is about creating the ability to raise funds for the Chamber to put back into the community.

Councilwoman Rudley asked Borough Solicitor Scaffidi that if the locations are included in the ordinance, can the ordinance be changed, and can a group be denied a permit. Solicitor Scaffidi said that it is easier to adopt the event permit application with changes. He said that he would not recommend putting the exact locations in the ordinance.

Motion to close public comment: Razze Second: Blass
Time: 8:55 p.m.

Councilman Austin said that he is against the ordinance, and suggested that people support the breweries if need be. He also said that Pitman offers several halls for rent, and that he sees no need to have it in any of the parks. Councilman Austin stressed that his plan to vote no on the ordinance is not meant to be negative toward the Chamber or the EDC who, he said, do a great job for the Borough.

Councilman Razze said that he supports the Summer Beer Festival on the Sony property, but for the record, he likes the Solicitor's suggestion of adopting the Permit Application rather than change the ordinance. Mr. Razze is not in favor of Alcyon Park being one of the approved locations, and understands the use of Theatre Avenue as it is a contained area.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No	Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes	Councilman Razze: No
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes	Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____	

Council Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

First, I would like to congratulate the winners of the American Legion's contest, and thank the American Legion for organizing it.

McCowan Memorial Library

During the month of March, 5509 people visited the library, and 367 children attended story time.

Finance Office

Tonight was the second reading and final approval of our 2018 municipal budget. I am happy to report that there is no municipal tax increase this year. It was a combined effort, and I would like to thank everyone involved. We will also be amending the budget to include approximately \$50,000 to initialize a security and safety program for our most precious asset, our children and staff in our schools. This \$50,000 will come from our surplus, and will not effect this year's tax rate. Hopefully, the Board of Education will fund the program in future years.

Council President Blass read the following report:

I would publicly like to thank Fred Rodi who is our Public Works Manager. Last week he and I were out working on a tree, and he helped ascertain the owner of this tree. He is also helping me with a project in the Grove in which his crew will be doing the work instead of the Borough going out and getting a private company.

Councilman Razzo read the following report:

Congratulations to our winners tonight, and thank you to the America Legion for the many programs that they are doing around town.

The Recreation Commission meeting was postponed from last week until this week.

I would like to congratulate Fred Rodi for winning the TriCo Joint Insurance Fund Safety Award. It was a special recognition award, and Mr. Rodi was nominated by Administrator O'Donnell.

The Environmental Commission met last week, and the topic discussed was the Borough's Earth Day Celebration, which will take place during the Spring Craft Show in Ballard Park on May 19. Other discussion included events that could take place at Alcyon Woods, and in areas up and around Alcyon Park.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

Pitman Public Works will begin on-street leaf collection on April 16 and will continue collecting leaves until May 21. Please be mindful when doing your yard clean-up that leaves, and only leaves, should be placed in the street for collection. Other yard debris may be placed in a can at the curb and will be collected. If there are sticks, grass clippings, and shrubbery mixed in with your leaves, the vacuum truck will be forced to skip your pile of leaves.

For larger yard clean-up projects, you may call Public Works at 589-1040, or go online, and schedule a dump truck to be left at your home for loading larger yard debris. This is normally scheduled for a Friday afternoon drop off with a Monday morning return.

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce will meet on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pitman Art Gallery located on Broadway. The Chamber would like to remind all residents to Eat, Stroll, Shop and Stay Local. Another business networking event hosted by the Chamber is scheduled for Monday, April 30, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Stage Right Wine Bar.

The Green Team meets again on April 26 at 7:00 p.m. here in Borough Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

Councilman Weng

No Report

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley reported that the Senior Outreach Program and the Economic Development Committee will both meet on April 19 in the Conference Room in Borough Hall. The Senior Outreach will meet at 6:00 p.m. and the EDC will meet at 7:00 p.m.

The Pitman Police Department will be holding its 2nd Annual Youth Academy during the second week of July. The Youth Academy is open to kids in the 6th and 7th grade. Applications will be available in the coming weeks.

The Police Department would like to thank Wayne and Barbara Duncan for their generous donation of \$600.00 to the Pitman Police Department K9 unit.

Chief McAteer would like to recognize Ptlm. Ken Decker, Ptlm. Marshall Pierson and Ptlm. Eric Bailey for their recent good work in the community. Chief McAteer received feedback from several residents about the great service that each officer provided. The resident stated that the service that each officer provided went above and beyond their expectations. Each officer is hereby commended before Mayor and Council.

New Business

Resolution No. 57, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund/Cancellation of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 60, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to W. Hargrove Construction, Inc. for the Demolition of 125 Tenth Avenue, Known as Block 22 Lot 38 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman in the Amount of \$9,350.00

Motion: Weng

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 61, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Advertisement 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

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 62, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Designating May 19, 2018 as Earth Day and Arbor Day in the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 63, 2018 – 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 353 Wesley Avenue, Block 37 Lot 17 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution 64, 2018 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Advertisement for Sale by Sealed Bid of One (1) Plenary Retail Consumption License

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Councilman Razze asked of the location of the C-1, C-2 and P-1 zones, and was told that they include parts of Holly Avenue, Pitman Avenue and Broadway.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: No

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve bills as presented with the exception of the payment to Atlantic City Electric to be withheld for further investigation into one high bill: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstains to #35356, votes to approve all other bills

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit/Signage

Event: Earth Day Celebration

Applicant: Pitman Environmental Commission
Contact Person: Robert Holwitt, Chairman
Date & Time: May 19, 2018; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Signage Dates: May 14, 2018 – May 19, 2018
Location: Ballard Park
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Blass
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Tree Planting/Clean-up

Applicant: Pitman Environmental Commission
Contact Person: Joshua Hitchner
Date & Time: April 28, 2018; 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Grove Auditorium Grounds & Grove Rain garden
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Blass
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Meetings for EMS Support Group

Applicant: Pitman Fire Company #1
Contact Person: Andrew Gresko, Chief
Date & Time: Monthly, on the third Wednesday; 7:00 p.m.
Location: Corner, Commerce & E. Holly Avenues
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Blass
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Permit approved contingent upon the submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.

Raffle License Application

Applicant: Highland Chemical Engine Company
Contact Person: Jeff Penuel
Date & Time of Drawing: September 3, 2018; 10:00 p.m.
Location: PHS, 225 Linden Avenue
Prize: 2018 Chevy Cruze LT

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 9:20 p.m.

Barbara Stech, 755 N. Broadway – Ms. Stech asked when the Addendum Event Application will be discussed. Councilwoman Rudley said it will be discussed further at the Work Session on April 23, 2018.

Jerry Delia, 317 Crafton Avenue – Mr. Delia stated that he attempted to purchase Borough pet licenses on March 30, 2018 only to find that the municipal building was closed in observance of Good Friday. As a result, when he came in on Monday, April 2, 2018, the ninety day grace period had expired and he was required to pay \$50.00 in late fees at \$10.00 per dog. Mr. Delia produced documents from other entities that contradicted the Borough's, and said that he was at a disadvantage due to his work schedule and not being able to purchase the tag online or by mail. He asked for the refund of the \$50.00 in late fees.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 9:25 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Motion was made by Councilman Weng that due to the March 30 closing of Borough Hall in observance of Good Friday, and the March 31 end of the ninety day grace period occurring on a Saturday, that any resident having paid a late fee on April 2, 2018 to license a pet in the Borough of Pitman will be refunded the amount of any late fee paid.

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Adjournment

Motion: Razze

Second: Pierpont

Time: 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell

Borough Clerk/Administrator