

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 9, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:05 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence**

Council President Blass

**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 2019, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 5, 2019.

**Roll Call**

Councilman Austin: Present  
Councilman Pierpont: Present  
Councilwoman Rudley: Present  
Mayor Johnson: Present  
Labor Attorney DiPiero: Present

Council President Blass: Present  
Councilman Razzo: Present  
Councilman Weng: Present  
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present  
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

**Proclamation Presentation**

A Proclamation was presented by Mayor Johnson and Councilman Pierpont to Meredith J. Owen for her efforts in designing and raising the funds for the installation of a fountain in the Edward J. Campbell, Jr. War Memorial Mall in Ballard Park. This project was performed as part of Ms. Owen's Girl Scout Gold Star Award service project.

Councilman Pierpont stated: "As a veteran and a member of the American Legion and VFW posts here in Pitman, it is my honor to make the following motion.

Motion: The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, duly elected by all residents in the Borough of Pitman, graciously accepts the gift of the Memorial Fountain located in the Edward J. Campbell, Jr. War Memorial Mall, gifted to the Borough by Meredith J. Owen.

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes



down, and said that lately we are having incredible trouble with maintenance and machinery breaking down. As a result of this, trash and recycling collection is being done the old fashioned way using the rear loader and additional manpower on each truck.

In-street leaf collection will stop on December 20. Residents should place leaves in open bags or cans for collection on their scheduled trash day going forward.

Councilman Razzo read the following report:

I had the opportunity to attend my first special claims review meeting this past week, a part of the Municipal Access Liability Fund, which is over and above the Joint Insurance Fund. The purpose of this ad hoc committee is to put together a strategy, and to assess claims brought against member municipalities involving the Firefighter Cancer Presumption Law. Also to be assessed by the committee will be the changes that have taken place in the State of New Jersey regarding the sexual abuse and molestation laws. It is a great concern to the MEL, as to how the changes will impact the losses of the member municipalities.

I also attended the Environmental Commission the other night, and although there were several members missing, we did discuss getting out to Alcyon Woods to make sure trees were being protected when trails are being created. There was a lot of good feedback regarding the disk golf, and a lot of folks are using the course. The Commission sees very little impact to the natural setting of Alcyon Woods, which is a plus for our Environmental Commission.

We also discussed ways that the Environmental Commission can try to put together something to help Public Works with the recycling efforts. Our Recycling Coordinator, Fred Rodi, submitted a report stating that this is still a problem; folks are still putting trash in their green recycling totes and this is leading to additional charges from Omni Recycling, where we dump what is collected.

There was also discussion of possibly putting in a rain garden toward the back end of Alcyon Park.

On Thursday evening, the Recreation Commission met. Our basketball programs began this week. The Middle School started open gym last week. This is for sixth through eighth grade students on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., and on Saturday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

The Christmas lights and trees were all put up in the time for our Santa Parade. Thank you to the Alcyon Lake Park staff.

Upcoming events were discussed. The Pitman Tennis Association is looking into grant opportunities for the resurfacing of our tennis courts. Recreation Director Fox and I had the opportunity to meet with the Tom and Debbie Slenkamp out at the courts, where some settling and sinking issues were noticed. Also, there are cracks in the courts that will have to be addressed as well.

Mr. Fox talked about some updates or some possible upgrades to our Borough website.

I would also like to thank Meredith Owen for her generous gift of the fountain, and also congratulations

to our Police Officers and Councilman-elect Fitzpatrick.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

Last meeting's Committee Reports weighed heavy on the holiday cheer, so this week I shall make up for it and include only holiday fun.

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce has a bundle of holiday goodies all bagged up for visitors young and old to enjoy.

I hope everyone had a chance to visit the Chamber sponsored Winter Village on December 7. By all accounts, it was a huge success and fun was had by all. But, if you couldn't make it on the 7th, fear not, another is scheduled for the 14th. The Winter Village is located at Sunset Auditorium from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

"Pitman Bucks" were available for purchase. For those of you who may not know, the Chamber of Commerce sponsors the sale of "Pitman Bucks" at \$.75 on the dollar. This discounted money may be spent at many participating stores and businesses, and is a great way that the Chamber augments your purchasing power and supports local businesses. Another "Pitman Bucks" sale is scheduled for spring.

Father Christmas, Papa Noel, Babbo Natale, Der Weihnachtsmann, yes, I'm talking Santa Claus, is here at his office located in Ballard Park every Thursday, Friday and Saturday until December 21 from 6:00 to 8:00. Whilst visiting Saint Nicholas, take some time to ride the Pitman Trolley Tour which also picks up riders in Ballard Park, but only on Friday and Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce is again sponsoring the Holiday Sing-along in the Grove Auditorium, also on December 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This singular event gets everyone who attends and participates, into the holiday spirit, because there is no better way to spread holiday cheer than to sing holiday carols loud and clear.

And, if you think that's all the Chamber of Commerce is doing this holiday season, hold on to your hats my elfish friends, especially my "money wise" elf friends. Every Saturday...all day Saturday... from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., the Chamber runs a FREE shuttle bus from the parking lot at Bright Beginnings Preschool on Lambs Road to Uptown Pitman. This is available to anyone who desires to get uptown to shop, stroll, or see a show.

Councilman Weng read the following:

At our last meeting, there was a concern by a member of the public that Council President Blass and I may have run afoul with government ethics laws because of our votes on the bill pay register, in particular, our votes involving money going to the school district. I thought that was a fair and reasonable concern, and I took it very seriously, so I asked our Solicitor if he could give us his legal opinion on this. Our Solicitor indicated that he was very busy, and that he would ask Mr. Shapiro to look into it for us. Mr. Shapiro was able to do that, and as it turns out there are some public decisions from the Local Finance Board that indicate that because the money goes to the school it is non-discretionary, meaning that the amount cannot be increased or decreased by the Borough, and it must go to the school regardless. Also, we have no influence on how that money is divided up based on

collective bargaining contracts, etc. The Borough is not a party to that, and because the spending has already been decided on, there is no conflict of interest. But again, it was a reasonable and valid concern, and I wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page. I thank Mr. Shapiro for working on this.

I would also like to thank Ms. Meredith Owen for her wonderful work, and congratulations to the Police Officers who were promoted tonight.

Councilwoman Rudley

No Report

Councilman Razze

Thank you to those who helped out with the Santa Parade. Councilman Austin, Barry Owen, Jim and Margaret Fortney, Ryan Pierson, Len Clark, Griffin Clark, Dawn Ritzler, Kathryn Ritzler. Also, Merissa Ozer, one of our National Honor Society students came out and helped, and she was a huge help. Of course, Nicholas and Anthony Razze, thank you.

Councilman Austin

I have to respond to Councilman Weng's comment, regarding the Local Finance Board. If the Local Finance Board can hang me out on what they said I did, they can hang anyone out, so I'm warning all of you. There are things that come up that we must vote on.

Mayor Johnson

No one up here deserves what Councilman Austin went through, or what a former Councilperson went through a few years back. No one who volunteers their time to do this job deserves this.

New Business

**Ordinance No. 26, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter XXXV, “Zoning” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman, Section 12.4 “Historic Preservation District Sites and Boundaries Established”**

Councilman Pierpont suggested that this ordinance be removed from the agenda due to the need for further discussion with effected Borough committees and commissions and for further review by Borough appointed professionals.

Motion to remove from agenda: Weng

Second: Pierpont

Voice Vote:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

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

**Ordinance No. 27, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing an Agreement for Tax Abatement With Pitman Properties, LLC, Jim Brandenburger, for a Property Commonly Known as 407 Tuohy**

**Avenue, and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 170 Lot 1.01**

Introduction

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. 207, 2019 – 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 at said meeting will be:

**Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and PBA Local 122**

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

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. 208, 2019 – 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 Pest Control Services for 81 Circle Avenue, Block 21 Lot 1 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County**

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. 209, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Karen Richards as Library Assistant/Children’s Programs Coordinator for the McCowan Memorial Library of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester**

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. 210, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Cody Michael Noe as Full-time Water and Sewer Department Utility Person for the Borough of Pitman Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Division**

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

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. 211, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing James Michael Whitley as Full-time Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Department of Public Works, Highway Division**

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

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. 212, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Dominic Joseph Ruggeri as Full-time Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Department of Public Works, Highway Division**

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

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. 213, 2019 – 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 – 2019 Distracted Driver Grant Program**

**Resolution No. 214, 2019 – 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 – 2019 Click It or Ticket Grant Program**

**Resolution No. 215, 2019 – 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 – 2019 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Grant Program**

**Resolution No. 216, 2019 – 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 – 2019 Holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Grant Program**

**Resolution No. 217, 2019 – 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 – 2019 Body Armor Replacement Program**

**Resolution No. 218, 2019 – 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 – 2019 Municipal Alliance Program**

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. 219, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Sale of a New Plenary Retail Consumption License to Merryman’s Pub, LLC, to be Placed at 106 South Broadway in the Borough of Pitman**

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: No

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

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

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Austin

Second: Razzo

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Abstains to # 38334; approves all others

Councilman Pierpont: Abstains to ck. #78612000; approves all others

Councilman Razzo: Abstains to # 38333; approves all others

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Abstains to # 38357; approves all others

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

**Event Permit**

**Event: Pitman Little League Monthly Meetings**

Contact Person: Deborah Rollins

Date & Time: Second Wednesday of each month; 8:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:57 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:58 p.m.

**Closed Meeting**

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Rudley

Second: Weng

Time: 8:58 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 9:20 p.m.

No action was taken by Council as a result of discussion in the closed meeting after returning to an open meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator

