

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2019**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 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

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Council President Blass: Present

Councilman Razze: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Borough Solicitor Scaffidi: Present

Proclamation Presentations

For heroic efforts in saving Pitman Firefighter Alex McMaster from falling through a collapsed stairwell during an active residential fire in Pitman:

Glassboro Fire Chief Steve Smith

Glassboro Firefighter Josh Lee

Mantua Firefighter Kevin Gill

For bravery in a life threatening situation, and for the coordination of efforts to save two individuals trapped in a burning residence in Pitman:

Highland Chemical Engine Company Chief Ryan Pierson

Pitman Firefighter Ray Kelley

Gloucester County Supervising Dispatcher Lt. William Holmstrom

For service to the Pitman Fire Department, the Pitman Police Department, and the community of Pitman:

The Pitman Fire Police Unit of the Pitman Fire Department

For 50 years of service to the Highland Chemical Engine Company and to the residents of Pitman:

J. William Miller

Approval of Minutes

Formal Meeting Minutes of December 27, 2018

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Reorganization Meeting January 5, 2019

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Abstain

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Council Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

First, I would like to congratulate the brave individuals of our fire department who received awards tonight. Congratulations not only to them but to all of our Fire personnel, Police, Public Works and Water and Sewer Departments, who answer the calls to assist our residents. It takes a special person to risk their life to preserve property and perform rescues, and I am fortunate and honored to still serve alongside these great volunteers.

Congratulations also goes to Mr. William Miller. Besides answering the call for over 50 years, Bill has also served Pitman on Council. As we all know, Bill is a quiet man, not really opinionated, (laughter) and has dedicated an enormous amount of time both as a fireman and Councilman to the Borough of Pitman. It has been my privilege to work with Bill on many projects at Highland Chemical Engine Company, and I thank Bill for his many years of service to our great Borough.

McCowan Memorial Library

It was a very busy year for the library and they were involved in numerous programs and events. Their involvement included, but was not limited to, the summer reading program, Pitman Poems on Parade, Woman's Club Christmas Tour, programs during our 4th Fridays, established and hosted the McCowan Memorial Library Book Club, outreach at Pitman Manor, and the Scarecrow Contest. Mr. Andrew Coldren, our new Library Director, has completed his first year and has additional new ideas for the library. Attendance for 2018 was reported as 69,813 visitors, and Story Time was attended by 4,069 children.

Finance Office

During my first year as the Finance Liaison to Council, my major focus was to attempt to minimize taxes. With the assistance of Council, we worked very hard and were successful in maintaining all services with a zero increase in municipal taxes. To my recollection, I cannot remember the last year that this occurred. Although residents' gross tax was increased, this was by the school budget, which unfortunately, Council has no control over. Council is faced with a tremendous challenge this year and I am hoping for the same support with our 2019 budget preparations.

And finally, I personally would like to thank all our employees and volunteers for their hard work and efforts for Pitman during 2018, with special thanks to all the workers who assisted me during the year.

Council President Blass

Council President Blass reported that in regard to Public Property, ten to twelve trees were removed this year throughout the Borough, and his largest focus has been on the refurbishing of the Grove Auditorium. This year a new roof was put on and the cupola was rehabilitated.

Councilman Razze

Councilman Razze reported that the scheduling issues that the basketball program has been having with the Middle School seem to have been resolved. The disc golf course is being developed in Alcyon Woods, and has won the approval of Mr. Bob Holwitt, Chairman of the Environmental Commission. The Recreation Department has been working closely with the Environmental Commission to maintain the integrity of the Woods while providing this recreational activity to visitors.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

As this is my last report as Council Liaison to Public Works, I'm going to use this opportunity to talk about recycling.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2019, the Borough of Pitman will start to pay for disposal of our recycling products. Some reasons for this are, a worldwide glut of recycling product, China's demand for a product free of contaminants, and labor costs to process recycled products.

Because this is a new expenditure for the Borough, we must budget for it. Based on analysis of 2017 and 2018 recycling tonnage, we anticipate the cost to be between \$76,000 and \$108,000. The reason for such a wide window is the rate that recycling is based on, and is dependent on "market value", which is currently set at \$62.00 per ton.

To get in front of this, our Public Works Manager is using several formats to educate residents on what may and cannot be recycled. This effort includes newsletters, water bills, door hangers, senior/volunteer fairs, community events and public meetings. Last month, we also conducted a curbside check of recycling containers. Of the 200 containers checked, only nine were in compliance. Every other container had products ranging from food scraps to dog waste. In our business district it was much worse with entire containers filled with food scraps and waste.

And if you think this is not a problem, you're mistaken. When our recycling truck arrives at the depot, we are instructed to dump in a separate area and our load is visually inspected for contaminants. In the long run, this costs each and every one of us money - a lot of money.

In conclusion, I ask every resident, young and old, to pause and check the item for the recycling logo, before you place it in the containers. Don't contaminate your neighbors bin as you walk home with the dog, and please look for our informational posts and literature to become a better recycling agent and resident.

You can get more information on Pitman's Recycling Program on our website or by calling the Public Works office at 589-1040.

Now, just some fun facts about this weekend's storm. We spent:

Labor costs - \$4,508.00

Spread 2,500 gallons of brine solution before the storm at \$0.20 cents per gallon, totaling \$500.00

Spread 59 tons of salt during and after the storm at \$56.00 a ton, totaling \$3,319.00

Used 50-pound bags of salt for our sidewalks at a cost of \$390 for a total of \$8,717.00

Councilman Weng

No Report

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley offered some highlights from the Pitman Police Department from 2018:

Lt. Gregg Owens retired, S/O Christine Osinski resigned after 15 years of employment, and two officers were assigned as School Resource Officers; Cpl. Leach and Ptlm. Stefanopoulos. We hired four new officers,

including three full time and one part time. We have five new Crossing Guards to fill full time and part time positions. We unfortunately, had two full time Crossing Guards pass away this year, Mrs. Betty Brown and Mrs. Mary Ann Rose after many years of service to the Police Department and to the Borough of Pitman. They will certainly be missed.

Councilwoman Rudley wanted to say something to the Fire Department members on a personal note. In reference to the August fire on N. Oak Avenue, she stated that this happened to be a very personal friend's house, and she was on the scene. The resident was naturally devastated, but among the things he worried the most about was his parents' ashes. Councilwoman Rudley noted that this was a dangerous fire, and the major concerns at the time were the injuries within our own department, and injuries to other department members. The resident repeatedly asked fire personnel if someone could retrieve the ashes from the burned home. Councilwoman Rudley noted the kindness and understanding from the firefighters that was given to this individual's personal concerns, all the while dealing with the chaos of the fire and injuries that occurred. Councilwoman Rudley noted that the firefighting ability of the Pitman Fire Department is above and beyond great, and added that the human element was absolutely incredible. She said she was proud of them the entire time, and personally touched.

New Business

Ordinance No. 1, 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 Exemption With Pitman Properties, LLC, Jim Brandenburger, for a Property Commonly Known as 58 S. Fernwood Avenue, and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 80 Lot 20.03

First Reading

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 _____

Ordinance No. 2, 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 Exemption With Pitman Properties, LLC, Jim Brandenburger, for a Property Commonly Known as 210 Pitman Avenue, and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 80 Lot 20.04

First Reading

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 _____

Ordinance No. 3, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter V of the Code of the Borough of Pitman: Animal Control

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 25, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of a Commodity Resale Agreement With the County of Gloucester

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. 26, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to The Plaxx Companies, Inc. for the Purchase of Two Cast Bronze Plaques and Mounting Post for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Councilman Austin stated that he is not in favor of spending any money at this time, whether it has been encumbered or not encumbered.

Councilman Razzo asked what are the plaques, and where are they going to be installed?

Councilman Pierpont responded that there are two plaques involved, one will go by the Pitman Grove Arch and the other one will go at the Grove Auditorium.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 27, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman to Enter Into Towing Contracts With B.A.R.E. Motors, George's Auto Body, and Tyler Mill Towing for the Period January 1, 2019 Through December 31, 2020

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. 28, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Professional Services by a Conflict Engineer

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Abstains to #36740, and votes to approve all other payments

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Abstains to #36728, and votes to approve all other payments

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit, Use of Facilities & Signage Applications

Event: Monthly Meetings

Sponsor: Pitman Soccer Association

Contact Person: Krista Wehlen

Date & Time: Schedule attached

Location: Borough Hall-Council Chambers

Motion: Razzo

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 _____

Event: Monthly Meetings

Sponsor: Pitman Athletic Association

Contact Person: Kerry Barrar

Date & Time: Schedule attached

Location: Borough Hall-Council Chambers

Motion: Razzo

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 _____

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

Event: Fourth Friday Celebrations

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Date & Time: Jan. – Dec. from 5:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Uptown Pitman, Ballard Park, Theatre Ave.

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

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

Event: Easter Egg Hunt & Activities

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Date & Time: April 13 from 10:00am – Noon (Rain date 4/20/19)

Location: Grove Auditorium and surrounding area

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 _____

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

Event: Pop-Up Park

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Date & Time: Thursdays, June 20 - Aug. 15; 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Location: Ballard Park

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 _____

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

Event: Community Picnic

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Date & Time: July 13; 11:00am – 3:00pm (Includes set-up and clean-up)

Location: Shertel Park & Sunset Auditorium

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 _____

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

Event: Magical Movie Night

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Vanessa James
Date & Time: October 19; 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Grove Auditorium
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

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

Event: Haunted Tales of Pitman

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Vanessa James
Date & Time: October 24, 25, 26; 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Grove Auditorium and surrounding areas
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

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

Event: Winter Village

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Vanessa James
Date & Time: December 7 & 14; 5:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Ballard Park or Sunset Auditorium, if raining
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

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

Event: Community Sing-Along

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Vanessa James
Date & Time: December 14; 5:30pm – 6:00pm
Location: Grove Auditorium
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes

Second: Blass
Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

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

Raffle/Bingo Applications

Event: Raffle

Sponsor: W.C.K. Walls HSA
Contact Person: Jennifer Mundie
Date & Time: April 26, 2019; 2:30pm
Location: 320 Grant Avenue

Motion: Razze

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

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:57 p.m.

Beth Portocalis, 301 Washington Avenue

Regarding the recycling program: Ms. Portocalis asked why Borough personnel were used to inspect the recycling containers for compliance. She said that leaving notes on all the residents' containers would be a better use of manpower. She stated that she works for a municipality, and the county actually collects the recycling there. Enforcement is done by personnel sent out to do a similar type of investigation, but later it was thought that a better way to educate the public is to provide them with a checklist for recycling, and a notice on the can stating that the recycling was not collected because of certain items in the container.

Councilman Pierpont replied that in his report he stated that part of the education process was door hangers. He further explained that when the Public Works Manager went out and inspected the two hundred containers, if it found residents not to be complaint, he left a door hanger with a note and contact information for questions. If they were found to be compliant, he also left a note stating that.

Ms. Portocalis suggested using social media as an educational tool, and asked if our grant totals have been affected by this. She suggested that funds from the Tonnage Grant and Clean Communities Grant could be used for educational purposes.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen asked the cost of the plaques and was told by Councilman Pierpont that the cost was \$7,000.00, and added that it was the lowest quote received by the Borough.

Mr. Owen replied that he does not approve of using taxpayer money being spent on such items. He said that in the past, the community came together and purchased a clock. He suggested that if the plaques are so important, the people who want them should organize and have people donate money to purchase them.

Mr. Owen further stated that recycling is a problem for all entities. He concluded by suggesting that the Borough sell the Sunset Auditorium site and use the lots for future affordable housing.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney stated that Ballard Park is ‘a mess’. He said that the Borough needs to trim trees, remove some trees, and reseed for grass.

Beth Portocalis, 301 Washington Avenue – Ms. Portocalis asked if the Borough collects recycling from commercial properties and asked if there was ever any consideration of not providing that as a service?

Councilman Pierpont – Yes, we did discuss this, our uptown area is a very unique area and there is no space for a dumpster service.

Beth Portocalis – Was there ever a consideration given or discussed about creating a business improvement district so that they could be taxed separately for dedicated services that are rendered to the business area?

Mayor Johnson – Twice in the last decade this topic has been discussed.

Councilwoman Rudley – This is an ongoing discussion with the Economic Development Committee, and they have a subcommittee that continues to look into this. Last year they had a meeting with interested and non-interested members of the business community to try and get an idea of how it would be received overall.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 9:19 p.m.

Second: Austin

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 9:19 p.m.

Second: Austin

Respectfully submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator