

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 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 Krachun: Present

Presentations

Pitman Dog of the Year

Pitman American Legion Post Commander Dave DeClement presented the award to "Penny" and the Service Dog of the year Award to "Gentleman Jack".

Go Gold Project

Councilman Pierpont read the Proclamation, and Mayor Johnson presented it to the members of Girl Scout Troop # 62499 in recognition of their efforts to raise money and for their participation in the Go Gold Campaign which raises awareness and funds to aid in the research to end childhood cancers.

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Formal Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2019

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Council Reports

Council President Blass stated:

"I would like to publicly, and for the record, congratulate Mayor-elect Razze. Back in the spring we were chatting, when the campaign was starting fresh, and we both agreed we wanted a clean, civil campaign. I would say Pitman could be the model for the nation. The results were done, and

we each congratulated each other, and everything is fine. I wish you the best, and I know if your job is going well, that means the town is doing well.”

Recycling statistics for the month of October:

Collected 86 tons of recyclables at the cost of \$7,590.00

Collected 0.05 tons of e-waste and received a \$50.00 refund

Solid Waste statistics:

Delivered 233.7 tons to Wheelabrator at the cost of \$20,630.00

Delivered 100.2 tons to Gloucester County Landfill at the cost of \$8,860.00

Councilman Austin read the following report:

I attended the McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees meeting in October and unfortunately, I have to announce the resignation of our Children’s Program Coordinator, Mrs. Patti Forte. Patti was a great worker and has served over 19 years. She is going to be missed. I want to thank her, on behalf of the residents of the town, for her dedicated service.

The Scarecrow Contest has come to a successful conclusion, and the winners are:

First Place - Brownie Scout Troop #62499

Second Place - Lazarus family

Third Place - Marchesano family

I also want to thank everyone who was in the recent election. As I am on my way out, it is great to see a town still be able to get out to vote and elect people. It is a very large commitment for these people, to put themselves out there and to work hard. Whether if they were successful or not, win, lose or draw, I want to thank them personally for volunteering for Pitman. Congratulations to everyone, and there are no losers in this town.

Councilman Razze read the following report:

I want to share two stories; at the last Miss Pitman Pageant, one of the things that the contestants spoke about was their favorite memory of the McCowan Memorial Library, and I would say that eight of the contestants said that their favorite memories were of Mrs. Forte and the story hour program. This just shows the impact she has had on these kids in this community.

I want to build on Council President Blass’ statement. Thank you again, and as Council President Blass said, it was a very nice campaign, and I am going back to last spring when Paul and I were at the Board of Education meeting and I said to him, regardless of how this turns out, I know that the town will be in good hands, and I meant that. I am happy with the outcome and that we get to work together; I also appreciate your friendship, thank you. I also want to congratulate Vanessa James. I want to thank Chris Wilson, and regardless to what the outcome may be, Adam and John, thank you for putting yourselves out there.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

I want to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in this campaign. I do read the literature that everyone leaves, and we take credit for what happens up here, and this is a testament to how well we all work together.

Michael, I want to congratulate you personally. I have a great deal of respect for you, but when I read your literature and I saw that it was one of your dreams to be the Mayor of Pitman since you

were a young man, and that you have fulfilled this dream; I congratulate you Michael, and look forward to working with you.

Councilman Pierpont read a letter into the record (attached) from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection awarding the Borough a Green Acres grant/loan.

Councilman Weng read the following report:

I want to echo some of the previous comments made, especially about Patti Forte. My kids absolutely loved story time with Patti. We never had to make them read or force them to read, they love books and I think this is due to what an amazing job Patti has done; she will be missed.

I want to start with Council President Blass and Chris Wilson. It's difficult, no matter what, to run for an election. There is so much work, time away from your family, being at places you never really want to be at, and it is not easy to be unsuccessful - I've been there before. Everyone who was unsuccessful in this election has held their heads up high, and this is a testament to Pitman, and the campaign that we ran in Pitman.

To Adam and John, we will get you there at some point, and figure this out.

I want to congratulate Mayor-elect Razze, it's been a pleasure working with you for the last two years and I look forward to continuing to work with you. I know that we are going to accomplish great things.

I am really proud of Vanessa and how hard she worked and for getting elected. It is difficult to lose, and it is even more difficult to come back from a loss and build on the things that you did. It is a testament to our town that people don't give up if they are not successful in elections. They don't just pack their bags and move on; they say, 'Pitman is an awesome town', and still want to do things, and this is what Vanessa did.

I am very excited to work with her, Mayor-elect Razze and whoever else might join us in January.

Councilwoman Rudley stated:

I have a story to tell. At my office in Atlantic City, there are many people there. On Election Day, I walked in very excited about voting and asked everyone if they had vote yet. A lot of their responses were that they do not vote anymore, or they are not voting in this election. Their reasons were that "they are all crooks" and that they are not voting. "But what about your local politics" I asked. They all said that "they are crooks too". At this point, I realized how lucky we really are in Pitman because we had six people on the ballot, and they are all awesome. So, congratulations to those who were successful, Mayor-elect Razze, Councilwoman-elect James, and thank you for being awesome, as you always are Council President Blass, and everyone one else.

The Pitman Police Department Uptown Chow Down food truck event was held on Saturday, November 2, and it was a huge success. We would like to thank everyone, including Mayor and Council for their continued support. All proceeds from this event goes to maintaining the K9 unit.

On November 6, the Police Department sponsored Trauma Awareness Training and all employees of the Borough were invited. We like to thank everyone who attended this training, and would like to extend a thank you and gratitude to VFW Memorial Post 6469 for granting us use of their

hall. Also, we would like to thank Lt. William Walsh of the Voorhees Police Department for his presentation on trauma stress awareness.

Last week, all members of the Pitman Police Department completed their annual mandatory recertification training. In addition, as of this coming Thursday, all members of the Pitman Police Department will have completed their CPR Certification training which is completed every two years.

Mayor Johnson stated:

I want to congratulate Council President Blass for a phenomenal campaign. You put yourself out there, and you will still be here for the next couple years to serve the town, and serve it well.

Chris Wilson is not here tonight, but he has put in countless hours and dedication to this town. After spending six years on Council already, he decided to come back again.

Adam and John, I wish you both well, best of luck to both of you.

Vanessa, congratulations, you certainly deserve this. You have worked hard, and I wish you a lot of luck.

Mayor-elect Razze, we grew up together these last twelve years, and I couldn't be any happier for you, living out your childhood dream. Congratulations! You are going to be a great mayor, and I look forward to seeing you in this chair.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 22, 2019 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and the Acquisition of Various Pieces of Equipment In and For the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$75,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$71,000 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With The Foregoing

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Austin Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: Razze Second: Blass
Time: 8:26 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze Second: Blass
Time: 8:26 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Ordinance No. 23, 2019 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 10, 2018 Establishing the Salaries and Wages For Employees of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, for the Year 2019 and Forward

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:27 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:27 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 _____

New Business

Ordinance No. 24, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Ordinance No. 10, 2018, Chapter XXXV, Section 33A, “Wind and Solar Energy Systems” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Introduction

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 _____

Ordinance No. 25, 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 401 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 Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 190, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Renew Membership in the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund and to Enter Into the Indemnity and Trust Agreement With Said Fund

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 191, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Payment #1 to Landberg Construction, LLC in the Amount of \$65,374.40 for the Resurfacing of Woodland Avenue and McClelland Avenue Project

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 192, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Transfer of Taxing Authority for Block 397 Lot 7 in the Borough of Glassboro to the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 193, 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:

Personnel: New Hires and Promotions for Police Department

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Rudley

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

Resolution No. 194, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding the Bid for a Plenary Retail Consumption License to Merryman's Pub, LLC

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razzo: No
Councilman Weng: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Austin
Second: Blass
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Abstains to #38164, #38169, and #38184; approves all others.
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Abstains to #38184; approves all others.
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Abstains to #38177; approves all others.
Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit

Event: Christmas Village and Visits with Santa

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Ronald Brown
Date & Time: Saturday, November 30, 2019 – December 21, 2019; 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Rain Date: Monday, December 23, 2019; 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: Ballard Park
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: PHS Mock Trial

Contact Person: Dr. Paul Blass, Pitman High School
Date & Time: December 10 & 17; 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Motion: Razzo
Second: Weng
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Council President Blass: Abstain
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Abstain
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razzo
Second: Blass
Time: 8:39 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Razzo
Second: Blass
Time: 8:40 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Rudley
Second: Weng
Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Razze
Time: 9:02 p.m.

Second: Weng

As a result of discussion in the closed meeting, the following action was taken by Council upon returning to an open meeting.

Resolution No. 195, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Appointment and Hiring of Cristyn Edwards as Full-Time Patrolwoman for the Borough of Pitman Police Department

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

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. 196, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Promoting Corporal Cristopher Leach to the Rank of Sergeant of the Borough of Pitman Police Department

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

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. 197, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Promoting Patrolman Ken Decker to the Rank of Corporal of the Borough of Pitman Police Department

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

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: Rudley

Second: Razze

Time: 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

