

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 13, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:10 p.m.

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

Mayor Razzo

**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 2020, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 4, 2020.

**Roll Call**

Council President Blass: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present

Councilwoman James: Present

Councilman Mazzola: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Mayor Razzo: Present

Borough Solicitor Scaffidi: Present

Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

**Pitman Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion**

Introduction and Swearing in of members was held in Ballard Park

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session, Formal, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Reports**

**Councilman Mazzola** read the following report:

**Board of Education** - Pitman Public Schools held their in-person formal graduation ceremony on July 8th, which included a speech from former Kindle School Principal Fran Yearwood, with parents or guardians presenting the graduates with their stoles. I have heard from several in attendance that it was a wonderful ending to a difficult year. I would like to thank the staff, administration, and the School Board members for their hard work in meeting the challenges presented by shifting to virtual learning and continuing through the socially distanced, in-person commencement.

**Public Property** - The recent storms in the past week hit Pitman with over five inches of rain and high winds. I was only notified of one downed tree in Walton Park which thankfully fell with no damage to the surrounding

properties, the tables, or the memorial in the park. Thank you to Borough personnel who were able to respond quickly and remove most of the fallen tree.

Clean Communities - I am happy to report that the Executive Director of the New Jersey Clean Communities Grant has cleared municipalities to resume cleaning efforts based on local approval and adherence to all current COVID-19 restrictions. I will be socializing this change via social media and will reach out to the organizations that have previously participated. We already have interest in a cleaning day at Alcyon Lake with residents using kayaks to clean hard to reach areas in addition to walking the surrounding shores.

### **Councilman Fitzpatrick**

Councilman Fitzpatrick reported the following revenue generated by the Construction Office:

Zoning Office fees for the month of April totaled \$6,149.00.

Thirty-nine inspections were completed by the following offices; Fire, Building, Plumbing and Electrical  
Miscellaneous fees collected totaled \$490.00

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that the Combined Planning and Zoning Board will meet on Monday, July 20, 2020. Topics on the agenda will include the Borough's Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) obligation.

**Councilwoman James** read the following report:

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce - The GPCC will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Laurel Market Pitman is online this year at [www.mycommunitymarketplace.com/laurelmarket](http://www.mycommunitymarketplace.com/laurelmarket). You may order online and pick-up your order on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the *Words Matter Bookstore*, located at 52 S. Broadway in Uptown Pitman. Laurel Market looks forward to being back at Sunset Auditorium next season, but still plans to keep an online component.

I urge everyone to please continue to support all of our local businesses during this challenging time.

McCowan Memorial Library - After two weeks of curbside service, the library opened to the public at 25% capacity on Monday, July 6th. Public computers are available by appointment only. So far, patron visitation has been slow but steady and compliance with COVID policies has been very high. Library patrons are very happy to have the library back and operating at its normal hours. At this time, the library cannot check out materials to patrons from other libraries in their consortium due to a lack of delivery service. They are unsure when and if the delivery company will return. The library will revisit this policy and the public computer policy in the coming weeks depending on demand.

The library did experience some flooding in the basement during the tropical storm that hit last Friday. Fortunately, no damage was done to any important materials as they were able to remove almost all the items from the floor. A small leak in the roof during the storm was also noticed but may have been caused by water volume and wind direction rather than damage. The library will continue to monitor that situation. Thank you to Public Works, the Recreation Department, and the Pitman Fire Department, who responded very quickly to the flooding issue and prevented any serious damage to library materials.

### Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

We were pleased to receive over fifty applications from a diverse and dedicated group of residents willing to volunteer their time to promote diversity and inclusion in Pitman. Thank you to everyone who applied! Thirteen applicants were selected to serve, and the first meeting of the Task Force will take place on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at

7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall. We will either meet outside or socially distanced in the Borough Hall Council Chambers depending on the weather. Please wear a mask if you plan to attend.

### **Council President Blass**

Councilman Blass reported that the Historic Preservation Commission met last Thursday. Five applications were considered. Three were approved without issue. Two were denied because there were questions involving the applications and no representatives were there to answer them. Since the meeting, a subcommittee met with one resident and clarified their application, which will now go before the Board for approval at the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting.

On June 23, 2020, representatives from the Economic Development Committee, Chamber of Commerce, and Police Department met with Council President Blass and Councilmen Weng and Mazzola to discuss bikes in the Uptown district. One idea is to install bike racks in more convenient areas. Council President Blass said that he will ask the Borough Engineer to look into the possibility of installing the racks in bump outs along Broadway.

### Public Works

#### Recycling Report – June 2020

Twenty-two loads of Single Stream Recycling totaling 97.08 tons, at a cost of \$9,257.14

Two loads of metal to Sims Metal totaling 5.18 tons. Borough received \$640.20

Mulch, leaves, and/or brush hauled out to various places totaling 799 cubic yards

\_\_\_\_\_ Mulch delivered to residents totaling 62 cubic yards

E-Waste recycled: 0.84 tons

#### Solid Waste Collection – June 2020

Twenty loads to Wheelabrator totaling 228.96 tons at \$74.50 per ton, for a cost of \$15,145.86

Thirteen loads to Gloucester County Landfill totaling 144.86 tons, at \$77.50 per ton, for a cost of \$11,226.68

Total Weight: 373.82 tons

Total Cost: \$26,372.54

Council President Blass presented a brief summary of Public Works tasks performed since the last meeting.

- Seventy-four water and sewer mark-out requests
- Plunged out four sewer stoppages
- Collected water samples
- Read nine meters for settlement
- Nine truckloads of bulk trash collected
- Repaired or replaced street signs in town
- Eight hours spent cleaning the tops of storm drains
- Six hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Ten hours grinding leaves and brush for mulch
- Delivered seventy loads of mulch to residents
- Spent ten hours mowing
- Repaired trash/recycle cans at various locations
- Dropped off a truck for yard debris to twelve residences, and picked up the next day

Council President Blass stated that a couple of times a year Public Works Director Fred Rodi drives him around and gives him a full update of issues within the Borough. Today one of those meetings occurred with the following issues noted.

- There have been more and more manhole covers that are sinking, which causes a driving hazard. The roads department must replace the mortar supporting the opening.
- In the near future, Laurel Avenue will have to be closed to remove a bump that has developed. Due to the extent of the work this will be contracted out.
- Also in the near future the entrance to the parking lot at Sixth Avenue and West will be closed so that the apron can be replaced. This work will be done in-house.
- A crew was dispatched to fix the pump at Lakeside Avenue. Mr. Blass reminded everyone that despite the advertising, flushable wipes are not to be flushed. They clog the sewer system. This time, however, the culprit was a T-shirt.

Council President Blass stated that on many occasions residents have let him know of their positive experiences with the employees of the Public Works Department. He said that he recently received one such message from a resident, and commended the employees who were involved.

### **Councilman Weng**

On July 6, 2020, Chief McAteer ended the Emergency Action Plan and General Order that the Police Department had been working under since the State of Emergency was imposed by Governor Murphy. Special Order No. SO 2020-04 was issued in its place carrying over the Covid-19 precautions that still apply.

Overnight Parking enforcement continues to be suspended until further notice.

Chief McAteer and the entire Pitman Police Department would like to thank the many members of the Pitman community who have reached out to thank them for our continued service, commitment, and professionalism during these difficult times. The Police Department is honored by the many well wishes that they have received. The following officers have, or will be, attending the following virtual trainings:

July 10, 2020: Cpl. Decker & P/O Baker - Bulletproof Report Writing

July 15, 2020: Chief McAteer will attend an open house for the nationally renowned Georgetown University's Innovative Policing Program.

July 28, 2020: Ten PPD officers will attend "Real World De-escalation" Training. Remaining PPD Officers will be attending De-escalation Training at a later date.

**Councilwoman Rudley** read the following report:

### **Parks and Recreation**

The Summer Tennis Program is going well. They have been following USTA guidelines for COVID-19 safety precautions, including having accessible hand sanitizer, gloves on site, and masks. We should also be receiving \$2,000 in grant monies from the Association in the next couple weeks to help with any modifications necessary due to COVID precautions.

Pitman Recreation is currently looking into holding a second year of the Heart of a Champion (HOC) Basketball Camp at Shertel Park during the week of August 10. Only limited attendance will be permitted and social distancing guidelines will be met.

We are also hosting six games for the "Last Dance" high school baseball tournament starting tomorrow, with the first game beginning at 4:00 p.m. Pitman Panthers play at 7:00 p.m. Games for this tournament will be played at

Alcyon Park on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week.

We are now taking registrations for fall Micro-Mini Soccer with plans to begin sometime in September.

If you would like to submit a video for the Pitman Camp-In, please see me or Recreation Director Fox for more information. They should be 90-120 seconds, e-mailed to [recreation@pitman.org](mailto:recreation@pitman.org) and should cover some educational or instructional topic about camping. Videos are due by Saturday, July 18, for consideration in the final program.

The Freedom Four Miler was a great success as a virtual run. There were over 300 registered virtual runners. Tee shirt pick up will be on July 30 at Alcyon Park 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and will be arranged as a drive through.

#### Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission is working to determine the impact that sediment runoff may have had on Glen Lake from construction at the old K-Mart location. They are meeting with John Phelps from SOLITUDE Lake Management to assess and discuss the erosion. Parks Director Andy Fox has also been in touch with Gloucester County Soil Conservation to help ensure that all proper protections are in place for local construction sites in an effort to keep our lakes and parks healthy.

#### Senior Outreach Committee

Senior Outreach is hoping to hold an in-person outreach fair in the fall this year. This would be our Fourth Annual Outreach Fair and we are waiting a few more weeks to see if it is possible to do this safely. Of course, our seniors are our most vulnerable population and we will not take any risks with their safety.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July celebrating in a new way. You are always welcome to contact me at [amy.rudley@pitman.org](mailto:amy.rudley@pitman.org) or 609-214-6342.

#### Unfinished Business

**Ordinance No. 8, 2020 – Refunding Bond Ordinance Providing for the Refunding of the Borough’s Outstanding Callable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, Dated December 22, 2009; Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$4,900,000 of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, to Finance the Costs Thereof; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants in Connection Therewith; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing**

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Blass

Time: 8:40 p.m.

**Kevin Austin, 562 Florence Avenue** – Mr. Austin asked if the funding for the purchases discussed in the Work Session are included in the amounts listed in Ordinance No. 8, 2020. Councilwoman James said that they are not. She explained that Ordinance No. 8, 2020 refinances old bonds at a lower interest rate, and by doing so, the Borough will be saving approximately \$500,000.00 in interest payments over the life of the bond.

Motion to close public hearing: James

Second: Blass

Time: 8:41 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

**New Business**

**Resolution No. 107, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Submission of a Strategic Plan for the Pitman Municipal Alliance for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

**Resolution No. 108, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting Submission of an Application to the Frank H. Stewart Trust for the Acquisition of Parcels of Land Known as Block 219, Lots 3, 5, & 6 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman to be Dedicated to Public Use and Authorizing Federici & Akin, PA; Jonathan Bryson, P.E., to Prepare the Application for Funding on Behalf of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

**Resolution No. 109, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Execution of a Shared Services Agreement for Financial Contribution Toward the Cost to Provide School Resource Officer(s) to the Pitman School District Between the Borough of Pitman and the Pitman Board of Education**

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

**Resolution No. 110, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Extending the Due Date for Third Quarter 2020 Taxes**

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 111, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:4-48 Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 112, 2020 – 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 Property Maintenance**

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 113, 2020 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Execution of an Agreement Between the Borough of Pitman and South Jersey Gas for the Gas Line Renewal Project on Elm Avenue and Albert Avenue**

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes, Abstains to #39198

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes, Abstains to #39187 and #16269

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Permit & Facilities Use Agreement**

\***Event:** Peaceful March with Speakers

Date: Sunday, July 12, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Contact Person: Charlotte Milana

Location: Beginning in Ballard Park, Sunset Auditorium, Betty Park, ending in Ballard Park  
Attendance: Unknown

**Motion to take no action:** Rudley Second: Fitzpatrick  
Roll Call by Voice Vote: Unanimous approval to take no action on this Event Permit.  
*\*Event Permit referred to Council for memorialization.*

**Raffle License Application**

Organization: Knights of Columbus #6247; Our Lady Queen of Peace  
Type of Raffle: 50/50  
Drawing Date: December 3, 2020 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: 161 Pitman Ave.  
Contact Person: Mike Martorano  
Motion: Rudley Second: Weng  
Roll Call:  
Council President Blass: Yes Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes Councilman Weng: Yes  
Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion**

Mayor Razzo stated:

Our Fourth of July was a little different this year, I know there was a lot of speculation out there about why we made the decision that we did not having the festivities that we normally have. The reality is that, at the end of the day, I was only looking at six applications for the parade and it did not make sense to have a parade with six applications. Also, there was some conflicting information that Councilman Weng and I got that led us to believe that we could have a fireworks display, but then the ultimate response was that we were okay to have our fireworks display as long as attendance was kept at under 500 people, which is several thousand less than the number that come out for our fireworks display, and this would not have worked.

I would just like to say, I pulled my chair out of my garage and witnessed an impromptu parade go by which was great to see some people keeping the tradition alive. I also loved the little red chair in the park just keeping that tradition alive too.

We've talked about people celebrating their Fourth of July in a different way. Hopefully, we are back on track next year.

It is still the intention of the Parade Committee to host something at some point in the coming months. We will find a Pitman Day to celebrate.

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Rudley Second: Mazzola  
Time: 8:55 p.m.

**Kevin Austin, 562 Florence Avenue** – Mr. Austin congratulated Council on not raising taxes this year. He asked in regard to Resolution No. 108, 2020, if the Block and Lots mentioned in the resolution are owned by a Pitman resident. Councilman Mazzola replied that they are currently owned by a Pitman resident.

Mr. Austin asked if authorizing the application for a grant will cost the Borough money. He asked what will



happen if the Borough does not buy this property, will we be out of this money? Mayor Razze replied that the Borough must show that it has the money to offer to buy this property.

Mr. Austin mentioned that Pitman Police Department personnel have been working a lot of overtime lately, and that he is very proud of them. He asked if they were okay within their overtime budget. Councilman Weng replied that he, the Chief, and Deputy Chief have met several times to discuss this and they are fully prepared to do what they need to do to not go over budget.

Regarding the Shertel Park tennis courts, Mr. Austin suggested that it might be wise for the Borough to ask the School Board if they could contribute to the rehabilitation since they use them for their teams. He also recommended that the Borough be aware of collecting the shared service funds from the School Board for the School Resource Officers as they are often late in sending it to the Borough.

Mr. Austin asked the amount of the emergency appropriation authorized in Resolution No. 111, 2020. Councilwoman James said the exact amount due to the New Jersey Pension Fund is \$1,517.95.

Mr. Austin asked how important the purchases are that were discussed in the Work Session, and what would be the final amount to be funded by bonding? Councilman Fitzpatrick replied that the amount was a little over one million dollars. Mr. Austin suggested prioritizing the list of purchases saying that the Borough's tax collector does a good job, but with what is going on this year with COVID-19, can the Borough expect to get the same amount of tax revenue this year, saying that this could affect how much money the Borough should, or could, bond.

Council President Blass stated that the Department of Public Works is in great need of equipment, with purchases being delayed year after year. Two new trucks are scheduled to be delivered soon, and the used trucks recently purchased are considered to be past their usable life. He endorsed the proposed purchases for Public Works.

Councilwoman James said that she has been in close contact with our CFO, and he has assured her that the Borough is in good shape up to this point, and even if Council was to approve bonding the majority or all of the capital purchases, we would still be in good shape.

Motion to close the public portion: James  
Time: 9:02 p.m.

Second: Blass

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mazzola  
Time: 9:02 p.m.

Second: Weng

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator

