

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 27, 2020**

Call to Order

Time: 8:22 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
Councilwoman James: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Razzo: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present
Councilman Mazzola: Present
Councilman Weng: Absent
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Formal Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2020

Motion: James

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

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

Council Reports

Councilwoman James read the following report:

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce issued the following statement late this afternoon.

THE FALL 2020 CRAFT SHOW HAS BEEN CANCELLED

While health concerns continue to change every day during this challenging time, and in consideration of the current guidelines set forth by state and local health officials, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce has made the difficult decision to cancel the Lori Poisker Fall Craft Show scheduled for September 19th. Public safety and the health and safety of our crafters, vendors, and visitors alike is our priority.

In brighter news, a new store, Crave, will be opening in the next couple of weeks in the space that was formerly occupied by Press 10 on Broadway. They have a ribbon cutting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 8th. Once details are finalized, they will be announced to invite any interested Chamber and Council members to attend.

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

McCowan Memorial Library

The library is in their third week of being open inside. They are open during their regular hours and have begun their summer reading program and in-person story time programs outside in the park. Patrons of the library have been in compliance with the restrictions in place and are happy to have the library back.

Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

Pitman's Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion met for the first time on Thursday, July 23rd and selected their leaders. I am very excited to see what this group of dynamic volunteers will accomplish over the next year. Congratulations to all those elected!

Lauren Canna - Chairperson

Marla Newsom - Vice-Chairperson

Alexandra Oasin - Secretary

Robert Andersen- Chairperson - Subcommittee on Pitman, Policies, Procedures & Training

Jacob Bernard - Chairperson - Subcommittee on Community Outreach & Education

Marla Newsom - Chairperson - Subcommittee on Business Outreach & Accessibility

The Task Force will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in Borough Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. Please wear a mask if you attend.

Councilman Blass

Economic Development Committee

On July 20, a subcommittee of the Economic Development Committee met with Councilman Mazzola and Administrator O'Donnell to discuss putting the finishing touches on the Theatre Avenue Project. We all came away with a vision and steps to make it happen.

Public Works

Since our last meeting, Public Works completed many projects to keep the borough looking good. They sealed the new pavers on Theatre Avenue, hung new street signs within the Historic District, painted the light posts along Broadway, and they graded the alley behind West Avenue. In addition, the sweeper has completed a circuit of the entire borough. Unfortunately it is out of commission at this time.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

Parks and Recreation

Director Fox and I met on Friday to look at the area at the end of Beechwood Avenue for a possible location for a dog park. The area is largely open, but lined with trees. Parking is an issue, as there is only very limited street parking available. However, there is easy access to Public Works and there are two driveways in and out, aside from the Public Works entrance. The three residents who have expressed interest in the dog park idea met with me at the same location on Saturday. They each discussed among themselves the pros and cons of that location versus some of the others. They were then going to take a separate trip over to Shertel Park to give that area another look.

The Recreation Commission meeting will likely take place on the second Thursday of August.

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission continues to seek a secretary. This position is paid approximately \$65.00 per meeting and includes attending the meeting, preparing the meeting minutes, submitting them for approval by the Commission, and then distributing them to Council. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact our Borough Administrator, Mrs. Judy O'Donnell. The need is immediate.

Senior Outreach Committee

We are deviating from our regular schedule of third Thursday meetings and are meeting this coming Thursday, July 30. We are going to meet outside at 6:30 p.m. We are going to brainstorm ways that we can still serve our senior citizen residents given our current limitations and restrictions. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please let me know by e-mail at amy.rudley@pitman.org or by phone at 609-214-6342.

In closing tonight, I ask that we take a moment to recognize the passing of Judge Esther Salas's son, Daniel. Judge Salas sits on the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Her son was killed last Monday by a self-proclaimed anti-feminist who came to the Judge's home and shot both her son and her husband. Our District Court Judges are appointed to their position by the President of the United States. This loss to one of our trusted New Jersey Jurists, and the reasons behind it, are unthinkable.

Pitman Police Department

Councilwoman Rudley reported that overnight parking enforcement continues to be suspended until further notice.

The following officers have or will be attending the following virtual trainings:

July 16, 2020: Cpl. Decker will attend *Emergency Response (ERT) Training*

July 15 & 16, 2020: Cpl. Parker & K9 Unit Ranger will attend monthly *K-9 Training*

July 9 & 23, 2020: Ptlm. Hoffman will attend *SWAT Training*

July 28, 2020: Chief McAteer, Deputy Chief Zander and seven other officers will attend *Real World De-Escalation Training*. The remaining PPD Officers will be attend this class in August.

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Zoning and Code Enforcement

The Zoning Officer processed eleven permits within the past month and inspected six properties for violations. Also, the Code Enforcement Officer issued twenty-three violations.

Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The Master Plan Committee reviewed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and made recommendations to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board. The subcommittee meeting for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is scheduled for August 5 at 7:00 p.m., in the municipal building. All are welcome to attend.

The Planning Board's appointed Planner, Tim Kernan, was not at the last Board meeting, therefore, the Affordable Housing plan for the Borough was not discussed. It is on the agenda for discussion at the next Board meeting to be held on August 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Mazzola read the following report:

Board of Education - There will be a special meeting on Wednesday, July 29, presumably to address plans for the upcoming school year.

Public Property - We are working on the removal of two trees in the Grove that present a danger to surrounding homes due to the poor health of the trees.

Administrator O'Donnell and I met with representatives from the Economic Development Committee, including Council Liaison to the EDC Paul Blass, to discuss Theatre Avenue improvements. The items discussed include a gate at the intersection with Simpson Avenue, planters at the end of the pavers provided by the EDC, as well as new planters along the sides. Sail shades are proposed to be attached to the buildings on either side to provide shade and eliminate the need for table umbrellas, and new tables and chairs. The planters would likely contain cluster bamboo as it would be lower maintenance and would thrive in the planters as opposed to trees which our Shade Tree Commissioner feels would not fare as well. We are currently awaiting some discussion and approvals on the sail shades before moving forward as that will determine how we proceed with additional purchases.

Clean Communities Grant

No update

New Business

Resolution No. 114, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Overbills of Taxes

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Resolution No. 115, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation and/or Refund of Taxes Due to the Property Owner Meeting the Requirements of a 100% Disabled Veteran as Set Forth in NJ.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and is Exempt From Paying Property Taxes

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Resolution No. 116, 2020 – 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. 41A:4-87; 2020 JIF Safety Incentive Budget

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Resolution No. 117, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Preparation and Distribution of Offering Documents in Connection With the Sale of the Borough’s General Obligation Refunding Bonds; Series 2020; Authorizing the Issuance, Sale, and Award of Said Bonds; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants in Connection Therewith; and Authorizing Certain Actions Related Thereto

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Resolution No. 118, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Approving Change Order No. 1 (Final) to the Contract With Landberg Construction, LLC for the FY NJDOT 2018 Resurfacing of Woodland Avenue and McClelland Avenue

Project

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Abstains to #39117; votes to approve all other items

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Event Permit & Facilities Use Agreement

***Event:** The Rock School of Dance Education Graduation

Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Contact Person: Robert Hodges

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Attendance: 50-60 people

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Absent

Mayor Razzo: _____

Discussion

Council President Blass mentioned that there have been twelve new COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Pitman since last week. Those affected range in age from seven to seventy-four years old. Mayor Razze urged everyone to stay safe and not to give up on the guidelines set by the state for wearing face masks and social distancing.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Rudley
Time: 8:41 p.m.

Second: James

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: James
Time: 8:41 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Adjournment

Motion: Mazzola
Time: 8:41 p.m.

Second: James

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator