

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
CYBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 8, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Time: 7:00 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: Present  
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

**Proclamation Presentation**

Mayor Razzo read a Proclamation declaring June as LGBT Pride Month and supporting diversity and inclusiveness of all people by the residents of the Borough of Pitman.

**Discussion**

Motion to enter into discussion: Blass  
Time: 7:01 p.m.

Second: Weng

**Recreation Department Issues**

Councilwoman Rudley explained the process that is used by the Recreation Department Director when reserving recreational facilities and fields for use by the public. Occasionally, the Director will receive a request from a local business, or for an out-of-the-ordinary event that may require additional approval from Council. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions for social gatherings and distancing, several requests have been received from private businesses asking to utilize the public spaces in the parks to operate their business. Council discussion resulted in the decision that only during this time, requests from private local businesses would be considered for the use of facilities based on the details provided for the event, insurance information, and other pertinent details. Activities planned would also follow the COVID-19 state guidelines in place at the time of the event.

The issue of scheduling baseball games was also discussed in relation to the intent of Governor Murphy's decision. Mayor Razzo stated that he sought guidance on this topic from the Office of Senator Madden and Assembly Members Moriarity and Mosquera. He was informed that the decision of the Governor to allow baseball was for practice only at this time. Councilwoman Rudley recommended limiting the gathering to practice only until further restrictions are lifted, and that the decision to reopen would be at the discretion of the

Recreation Director.

Councilwoman Rudley stated that the Recreation Director is also seeking guidance from Council on a request to host a tournament at our Disc Golf Course at Alcyon Park on June 27. At this time, seventy-two players have signed up to play. Mayor Razze stated that the Recreation Director, Andy Fox, had expressed his preference to reschedule the tournament for a later date when potentially more of the restrictions have been lifted. Members of Council agreed that Mr. Fox should contact the organizers and reschedule the tournament.

SLEO Class II Appointment

Councilman Weng stated that the Pitman Police Department had budgeted for the appointment of a (SLEO) Class II Officer in the 2020 budget, and intended to do so last March, prior to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order issued by Governor Murphy. He asked to have Resolution No. 91, 2020 added to the agenda this evening to appoint Pitman resident Sebastian Leon as a (SLEO) Class II Officer for the Pitman Police Department.

Executive Order 2020-150 – Borough Response to Aid Local Businesses

Mayor Razze provided background of a prior discussion pertaining to Executive Order 2020-150 in which Governor Murphy approved outside dining at local restaurants beginning on June 15, 2020. Mayor and Councilmen Blass and Mazzola related some suggestions to help accommodate local restaurants, breweries and retail businesses to better take advantage of the Order. Ideas included setting up tables on Theatre Avenue, in Ballard Park, and in the Borough-owned parking lot behind Merryman’s Pub, with half of the lot being reserved for patrons of the Pub and the other half for use by customers of curbside takeout meals. Also suggested was to permit BYOB at the Theatre Avenue tables and to allow the Stage Right Wine Bar, Kelly Green Brewery and Human Village Brewery to extend their businesses onto the sidewalk in front for consumption, if approved to do so by the State of New Jersey Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. It was also suggested to allow businesses to utilize adjacent sidewalk space if approved by the neighboring merchant. This arrangement would be performed as an agreement between the property owners, with no Borough involvement. Also proposed was the waiver of applications and fees in place for the outdoor display of merchandise. Resolutions No. 89, 90, and 92 will be added to the agenda for Council action and will contain all concessions and stipulations agreed to by Council during this discussion.

Event Permit Application for Theatre Avenue BYOB Dining

As a result of the above discussion, the Event Permit Application submitted by the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce to allow BYOB dining on Theatre Avenue was reviewed. Following discussion, amendments were made to the application that include extending the BYOB dining request for Theatre Avenue to include the portion of the East Avenue parking lot not being utilized by Merryman’s Pub, and to limit the area of the tables on Theatre Avenue to the area covered by the decorative pavers.

Mayor Razze said that the Borough would waive the insurance requirement for the Event Permit Application and suggested that the Event Permit remain in force until such time as indoor seating is permitted by the Governor.

Motion to close discussion: Blass  
Time: 8:12 p.m.

Second: Weng

New Business

Approval of Minutes

Formal Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2020

Motion: Blass

Second: James

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. 85, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Payment #3 (Final) to Command Company in the Amount of \$5,608.22 for the Reconstruction of Theatre Avenue**

Motion: James

Second: Weng

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. 86, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee and Approving Form of Maintenance Guarantee Submitted for Approval by Command Company for the Reconstruction of Theatre Avenue Project in the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County**

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

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. 87, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Submission of a Grant Application and Execution of a Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Reconstruction of Centre Avenue in its Entirety Project**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 88, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Submission of a Grant Application and Execution of a Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Reconstruction of Lakeside Avenue in its Entirety Project**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Rudley

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. 89, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Waiver of Application and Fee Requirement for Outdoor Display of Merchandise Under Chapter 35, “Zoning”, Section 38, “Outdoor Display of Merchandise”, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman**

Motion: James

Second: Weng

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. 90, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Merryman’s Pub Use of Municipal Sidewalk and Parking Lot for Serving of Food and Alcohol in Compliance With Their Retail Consumption License and in Accordance With Executive Order No. 2020-150**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Fitzpatrick

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. 91 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Appointment and Hiring of Sebastian Leon as a Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Class II**

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

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. 92, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing and Approving Kelly Green Brewery, Human Village Brewery, and Stage Right Wine Bar to Use Municipal Sidewalk in Compliance With New Jersey ABC Regulations and in Accordance With Executive Order No. 2020-150**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Fitzpatrick

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. 93, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting a Grant from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Facility Recovery Grant Program**

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Abstained to #39082 and # 16241; voted to approve all other bills  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes  
Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Permit**

Event: **Tree Treasure Hunt\***

Dates: TBD

Contact Person: Patrice Sheehan/Pitman Environmental Commission

Location: Betty Park

Motion: Rudley

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

*\*Approval is contingent upon conformance with the restrictions set in place by Governor Murphy as they pertain to the COVID-19 Pandemic guidelines at the time of the event, and approval of the Supervisor of Operations of the Pitman Police Department.*

Event: **BYOB Dining on Theatre Ave. and East Ave. Parking Lot**

Dates: Thursday – Sunday, June 18, 2020, and until the Executive Order allowing dining-in at restaurants.

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Contact Person: Patrick Bradley/GPCC

Location: Paver area of Theatre Avenue and the East Avenue parking lot reserved area

Motion: Rudley

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

*\*Approval is contingent upon conformance with the restrictions set in place by Governor Murphy as they pertain to the COVID-19 Pandemic guidelines at the time of the event, and approval of the Supervisor of Operations of the Pitman Police Department.*

**Discussion**

Councilwoman James, in cooperation with Mayor Razze, proposed the formation of a task force on inclusion and diversity in the Borough. It will be a diverse group of seven members, appointed by Mayor and Council, who would evaluate and find ways to promote inclusion and diversity for all residents of the Borough regardless of their religion, social, ethnic, gender, or sexual orientation. At the conclusion of one year, the Task Force members will submit a report to Mayor and Council on their findings and present suggestions for improving awareness and relationships between all groups of people.

Support was expressed by all members of Council with Pitman Police Chief McAteer stating that he feels it is time to change the perception of Pitman and bring more transparency and inclusion within the community.

**Resolution No. 94, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Establishment of the Pitman Task Force on Inclusion and Diversity and Authorizing the Appointment of Members to Said Task Force**

Motion: James

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

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

Councilman Fitzpatrick reported that he read an article in the *Courier Post* newspaper which stated that the brewery licenses of both Pitman breweries will be suspended due to violations of the COVID-19 restrictions set in place by Governor Murphy.

Mayor Razze reported on behalf of the Pitman Parade Committee that the Independence Day parade and fireworks have been postponed to a date not yet decided. The theme for the parade is the *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment*. Any updates to the festivities will be posted on the Borough’s website and Facebook page.

The Pitman Freedom 4-Mile Run will take place as a virtual run. Interested runners should click on the Recreation tab on the Borough’s website, or contact Recreation Director Andy Fox for information.

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Time: 8:48 p.m.

**Shari Hulitt, 335 Roosevelt Avenue** – Ms. Hulitt thanked Council for supporting Borough businesses by passing the concession resolutions.

**Judy Walker, 503 Hudson Avenue** – Ms. Walker thanked Mayor Razze for presenting the Proclamation declaring June as LGBT Pride Month and expressed her appreciation of the formation of the Pitman Task Force on Inclusion and Diversity.

**Joe Warburton, 118 Oakcrest Avenue** - Mr. Warburton thanked Pitman officials and the members of the Police Department for their support of the Nine Mile March held on June 14, and for creating the Pitman Task Force On Inclusion and Diversity.

**PPD Chief Daniel McAteer, 462 West Avenue** – Chief McAteer said that he will be placing removable decals on police vehicles expressing support for the Pitman High School Class of 2020. He is also looking into purchasing decals supporting various other causes as well.

Motion to close the public portion: Rudley  
Time: 8:56 p.m.

Second: James

**Adjournment**

Motion: Weng  
Time: 8:57 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator