

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 27, 2021**

Call to Order

Time: 7:00 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 the time and date of this meeting was published in the South Jersey Times on January 7, 2021, posted on the Borough Hall front door, and advertised on the Borough of Pitman website continuously since January 7, 2021.

Roll Call

Council President Blass: Present
Councilwoman James: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Razzo: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Formal Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2021

Motion: Blass

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

Council Reports

Councilman Fitzpatrick

No Report

Councilwoman James

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

New for 2022! The Chamber will be moving its regular monthly meeting nights to the first Monday of the Month at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall. The Chamber will also be holding a "Chamber Check-In" at 10:00 a.m. on the day of the monthly meeting for members of the business community who are not able to make the evening meeting. Stay tuned for more details!

I would also like to take a moment to thank Council President Paul Blass and Councilwoman Amy Rudley for their many years of service to the Borough of Pitman. It has been my great privilege to serve on Council with both of them, and I am confident that the positive impact they've made on Pitman will benefit our residents for many years to come. Paul and Amy, thank you.

As always, I am available to answer any questions or concerns via email at vanessa.james@pitman.org or by phone at 336-407-8604. Happy New Year!

Council President Blass

Sustainable Pitman

Through the collective efforts of the team members, Pitman has maintained its Bronze Certification and is diligently working toward Silver Certification, which will be a big accomplishment for a small town.

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee has now finished most work on the Theatre Avenue project. The one final component will be to install some type of sunshades. This year the EDC reorganized itself to better reflect its mission. They did a survey of the Borough's businesses to get feedback on their needs.

Historic Preservation Commission:

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed forty-six applications this past year. The vast majority were approved with no changes to the original application or with minor adjustments.

Public Works:

Since our last meeting, the Highway Division

- Collected 218.9 tons of trash
- Collected 52.53 tons of recyclables
- Collected 205 yards of brush
- Spent five hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Ran the street sweeper for eight hours
- Dropped off a truck for yard debris to one resident and picked up the next day
- Completed about forty curbside inspections per week of recycling containers
- Spent thirty hours cleaning the tops of storm drains

The Water and Sewer Division

- Performed fifteen water and sewer mark out requests
- Plunged out two sewer stoppages
- Performed routine well work (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples
- Read nine meters for real estate settlements
- Replaced one meter body
- Upgraded eighteen meter heads

Public Works is truly the "go to" department whenever any issue arises. It seems we all check with them first whenever a job needs to get done. The Borough is truly lucky to have such a dependable and dedicated group of employees at the end of Elwood Avenue.

Public Works Year End Report

This year has been particularly challenging for our two mechanics. We had many, many breakdowns this year. This is, in part, because many of our vehicles are well past their prime, and we also use a lot of vehicles. Summer average daily usage is sixteen vehicles (twenty-four if you count the back-ups). Fall usage is eighteen, while winter is sixteen (eighteen if it snows). This year our mechanics also took on a new task – initiative-taking maintenance of our police vehicles.

Public Works dealt with four snow events this past year.

The Borough installed a new data collection system, which should help with Water and Sewer billing. All residents are reminded to call Public Works to make an appointment to have their water meter replaced.

The Borough installed new pumps at the Lakeview/Lakeside sewer lift station.

Recycling disposal continued to be an issue this year. Public Works did begin curb inspections, which has helped somewhat. I remind everyone – no plastic bags in the recycling can. The Borough continues to be fined for this.

This year was especially tough on the Water & Sewer Department. There were over a dozen water main breaks which occurred in the following areas: Albert Avenue, Broadway, Boundary Avenue, Canterbury Avenue, East Avenue, Esplanade Avenue, Glen Lake Avenue, East Holly Avenue (several times), Hudson Avenue, Lambs Road, Linden Avenue, Michaels Lane, Roosevelt Avenue, Vassar Avenue, Washington Avenue, First Avenue (several times – including December 26), and just today, Mansfield Avenue.

There were several road reconstruction and repaving projects completed this year on portions of Adams, Glen Lake, Seneca, and Tuohy Avenues.

During the past year I heard from about twenty residents thanking the Public Works Department as a whole, or singling out individual workers, whether they knew their names or not. I want to wholeheartedly thank the entire Public Works Department for all they do. I also want to thank the Public Works Manager, Fred Rodi. Mr. Rodi is a consummate professional who works tirelessly to keep the department running smoothly and the Borough looking good. He and I texted, emailed, and talked all the time. I know how much he cares about the Borough. I personally appreciate all his help.

Councilman Mazzola

I just want to take the time to thank Council President Paul Blass and Councilwoman Amy Rudley for their years of service to the Borough of Pitman. They have both left their mark in town through their countless hours of volunteer work and assistance to our residents. They have worked tirelessly over the years to improve public services, create new committees, and preserve the rich history of Pitman. I am honored to have served alongside them.

Councilman Weng

Overnight parking enforcement remains suspended for Christmas and the New Year holidays. Beginning January 10, 2022, enforcement of the ban on cars parking overnight on Borough streets will begin again.

Pitman Police Department Administration, Sergeants, and Detective Bureau officers all attended the Mid-Year Training Conference held by the NJSACOP on December 2, 2021. The focus of the training was active shooter preparedness and response.

The PPD hosted, and eleven officers attended, the one day Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement presentation on December 8, 2021. The event was graciously co-hosted by the Broadway Theater. We would like to thank the Broadway Theatre owner, Mr. Peter Slack, theatre manager, Mr. Darrell Blood, and all the staff for their support.

All members of the Police Department received the following training in November and December:

- Law Enforcement and the LGBT Community and Continued ICAT/ABLE Training (mandated by NJ Office of the Attorney General)
- Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation, Bias Crime Reporting, and Law Enforcement Interaction with Transgender Individuals (mandated by Chief McAteer)
- Updated Use of Force Training for the entire PPD and Use of Force Policy Update. This training was provided by Sgt. Carson, the department's Accreditation Manager.

Statement from Councilman Weng

Council President Blass and Councilwoman Rudley, their record of service through a combination of 5 terms and 15 years of service on Council speaks for itself. My personal notes on going around town with Councilman Blass; It was always a pleasure running into not just parents of students, but also former students sharing positive experiences of conversations had and memories of Mr. Blass. I also second his comments about our Public Works Department; it has flourished under the leadership of Council President Blass and Fred Rodi. Whenever there was an issue, I would bring it to Council President Blass' attention and he would write it down on a scrap piece of paper (not sure where that paper ended up) but the issue was always solved. We appreciate your service.

This goes for Councilwoman Rudley. While canvassing and knocking on doors, we encountered an elderly gentleman who did not have enough food to eat and was too weak to stand at the door. This is the reason the Senior Outreach Committee was created, which has helped numerous seniors over the years. On a personal note, at one of my first Council meetings there was an issue that came up and it quickly became clear that this would have to go into a Closed Session. I was not prepared and Councilwoman Rudley mouthed the words to me. Not everyone would do this. Your service to Pitman has made Pitman a better place.

Councilwoman Rudley

Senior Outreach

The Senior Outreach Committee continued to meet despite the COVID pandemic, holding many meetings outside. After a very successful movie night and also a game day with the VFW, the Senior Outreach Committee plans to hold twice-monthly events at the VFW on a regular schedule moving forward. The Committee also held their annual Pop-Up Park with coordination from the Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, while the current ordinance provides for only limited appointments for membership, I have moved for an amendment to the ordinance to allow for eleven members in addition to the assigned

Council Representative. I have asked that the current eleven active and dedicated volunteers be appointed to the committee once again. They are:

Former Councilwoman Debbie Higbee
Don Forman
Jim Naphas
Lucille Petrillo
Sharon Yesner, representing the United Methodist Homes as their Volunteer Coordinator
Former McCowan Memorial Library Director Sharon Furgason
Ashley Mason
Walt Friedrich
Keryl Hausman
Marcie Geyer, and myself

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission held a number of very successful events this year including volunteer planting days at the Grove Auditorium, in Ballard Park, Shertel Park, Alcyon Park, and the various smaller parks throughout town.

Earth Day was another success with an emphasis on recycling education. The EC has been in ongoing discussions with a local organization to bring some Environmental Assemblies into our Pitman Elementary and Middle Schools.

The establishment of the Recycling Subcommittee helped to develop the education partnership with the Public Works Department and the efforts to inform the public of the current recycling mistakes which were resulting in fines to the Borough.

Various trees were trimmed by volunteers, as well as vendors. Dangerous or dead trees were removed and were replaced where possible.

The EC volunteers also focused their energies on the eradication of Lantern Flies in the Borough. Please scrape and destroy any eggs that you see. You destroy them by scraping them into a plastic bag, dousing it with rubbing alcohol, and then closing it up for trash. Merely squishing the eggs is not sufficient as they are pretty difficult to destroy.

Memorabilia Committee

The Museum is open routinely on the second Saturday of the month and during Fourth Friday events. It is always staffed by volunteers.

The Memorabilia Committee also held a very successful 150th Anniversary Commemoration and learning event relating to the origins of Pitman.

Thank you and best wishes to everyone in the New Year.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 15, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Establishing the Borough of Pitman Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion Committee of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Final Adoption - Public Hearing

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Blass

Time: 7:14 p.m.

A resident who wished to remain anonymous stated that “William Brennan used the term chilling effect in a public comment, and in 2017 the Supreme Court stated that the internet is the modern public square, so if this meeting is being broadcast to the world wide web, that, to me, is the chilling effect of me identifying myself not knowing who will be seeing this and what consequences there might be. So I will not be giving my name other than to say that I am a Pitman resident.”

The anonymous resident asked Council in regard to the membership of the DEI Committee, why three members are to be employed by a profit or non-profit business.

Councilwoman James – The thought process was to have it similar to some of our other committees, to have someone who is invested in the town, whether it being a nonprofit or a business. They wanted them to have input if they were an employee or maybe someone who lives in a neighboring town but they are working or volunteering in Pitman.

Mayor Razzo – For example, our Task Force had members of the school district who do not live in town but came out to our meetings, and it was helpful to have that individual here.

Anonymous – The task to ‘Uphold certain universal community standards;’ what are those?

Councilwoman James – I think it was just universal principals that we all would hold true. To be kind to our neighbors, treat each other with respect. That is the vision of the committee. The language from the ordinance was taken almost verbatim from the recommendations that were made by the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.

Anonymous – Who are the public leaders as it says in the rest of that sentence? What is the definition of that?

Councilwoman James – My perceived definition would be members of the Mayor and Council, and elected committee chairs, would be my interpretation of that.

Anonymous – I see the vision when we say regardless of the political parties in that statement. I don’t see the necessity for saying ‘regardless of the political party.’ We are saying that either Republicans or the Democratic Party does not agree with some of these standards, I don’t think it’s fair to say.

Councilwoman James – That was not the intention at all. I think the idea was that this committee transcend politics because the Mayor and I got together to start this Task Force and he has been very supportive of this committee as is everyone on Council. I am in favor of this statement. That this is not a political committee that is together despite any differences and to transcend any differences that we have, and to focus on what we do have in common to make the town inclusive for everybody regardless of what

the differences may be. That is the idea behind the committee.

Anonymous – I just wanted to make sure we were not setting up one side.

Councilwoman James – Absolutely not.

Anonymous – Promote the DEI standard of religious diversity, is this committee going to suggest things that churches or denominations need to push?

Councilwoman James – I don't believe that is the intention. I think the intention is to be accepting of different religions and not be promoting one religion over another. It's to come together as neighbors regardless of sex, religious beliefs, and ethnicity and make it an inclusive place for everyone regardless of where you are coming from.

Judy Walker, 503 Hudson Avenue – I am happy to give my name in public. I believe that making these meetings accessible on the web makes them assessable to everybody who would like to be here and perhaps cannot.

Ms. Walker read the following statement:

On behalf of the Pitman Anti-Racist Collective, we are so excited about the possibility of this passing in town. We believe that it offers historic opportunity for us to engage with our towns' culture, institutions, procedures, and policies, at an official sustained capacity. We hope that when making appointments Council will select individuals who demonstrate productive, collaborative, and spirited comment to diversity, equality, and inclusion. We are proud of our community for considering this and for moving in this positive direction.

Motion to close public portion: James
Time: 7:23 p.m.

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Ordinance No. 16, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 16, Parks and Recreation Areas, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman to Create the Mantua Creek Conservation Area

Final Adoption - Public Hearing

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: James
Time: 7:25 p.m.

Second: Blass

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: James

Second: Blass

Time: 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Ordinance No. 17, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 2-75 Entitled Senior Outreach Committee, Section 2-75.1, Membership, and Section 2-75.2, Term of Office, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Final Adoption - Public Hearing

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Motion to open to the public: Rudley

Second: Weng

Time: 7:26 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Time: 7:27 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Consent Agenda – All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by this Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Resolution No. 184, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation/Refund of Real Estate Taxes Due to the Add/Omit Billing Error Which Double Charged the Property Owner for the 2021 Tax Year

Resolution No. 185, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Renewal of One (1) Plenary Retail Consumption License to Advance Pitman Investment Group, LLC

Resolution No. 186, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Capela Construction, Inc. for the Drainage Improvements to Eighth Avenue Project - \$92,570.00

Resolution No. 187, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers

Resolution No. 184, 2021 – Resolution No. 187, 2021

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 _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Councilman Fitzpatrick – Are the bonds being rolled over to the next year, 1.5 million and 1.7 million?

Motion for a three minute recess to obtain further information: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Time: 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Motion to reconvene: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Councilman Mazzola stated that the payment on the list of bills is being used to pay off the old, and that this is a standard practice that we do every year.

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to #51115 and votes to approve all other items on the list

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Event Permits

Event: Art Stroll on Uptown Light Posts

Date: May 1, 2022 - May 31, 2022

Location: Broadway light posts

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Abstain
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Pitman Athletic Association

Date and Time: First Wednesday of every month; 8:30 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers

Contact Person: Christian Dutil

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: _____

Event: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date and Time: Monthly meetings to be held on the first Monday of the month; 6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers

Contact Person: Kara Knauss

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: _____

Application for Signage

Event: Pitman Little League Registration

Date: January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022

Location: Online: online@pitmanlittleleague.com

Sponsor: Pitman Little League

Contact Person: Mike Lynch

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: _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Time: 7:40 p.m.

James Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney said that he would like to see the Art Stroll banners taken down before Memorial Day weekend so that the American flag banners can be displayed on the light poles from Memorial Day through July.

Councilwoman James said that the Chamber will remove the Art Stroll banners before Memorial Day.

Dave Hoh, 101 Colonial Avenue – Mr. Hoh thanked the Borough Tax Collector and Borough Administrator for the help provided to him today in regard to his tax problem.

Anonymous Resident stated that he wanted to thank Council President Blass and Councilwoman Rudley for their service to the community and for the time they served as Council Liaison to the Economic Development Committee. He said that the members of the EDC shared a good, non-political, working relationship.

Motion to close the public portion: Mazzola Second: Rudley
Time: 7:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Mazzola Second: Rudley
Time: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator