

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

Call to Order

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

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, Council Meeting, and Closed Session Minutes of January 25, 2021

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

Council Reports

Councilwoman James

Parks & Recreation

The Recreation Commission met on February 4 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. There was discussion about resident volunteers restoring a wildflower garden in Alcyon Lake Park. We also discussed plans to have a COVID-safe Youth Week at the beginning of May. The Parks & Recreation Department is hosting the Middle School Baseball Program this year. If your child is interested in participating, please contact the Recreation Department at recreation@pitman.org. The Parks & Recreation Department also plans to host T-ball this spring. You can follow the Recreation page on the Borough's website for more details.

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce will meet again via Zoom on February 16 at 7:00 p.m. Love is in the air in Uptown Pitman this week, so please support our Pitman businesses by shopping and dining local for Valentine's Day.

McCowan Memorial Library

During the month of January 2338 people visited McCowan Memorial Library and there were ninety-four internet

users. There were nineteen virtual programs with a reach of 3551, eighty Grab 'N Go Craft Kits distributed, and four accompanying craft videos available.

Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

The Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion met via Zoom on January 28. Each of the subcommittees gave reports on their progress to date. Chairperson Lauren Canna also reviewed the results of the Diversity and Inclusion Survey to date, and plans were made to make sure the survey was more widely circulated over the next several months. The next meeting of the Task Force will be on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The link to the virtual meeting can be found on the Borough website, www.pitman.org.

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.

Councilman Mazzola

Board of Education

Board of Education Superintendent Patrick McAleer will be sending a survey to Pitman families soliciting feedback on some potential changes to the hybrid instruction model. Please keep an eye out for that survey and provide any feedback you have at that time.

The school lunch program is continuing with pick-up each Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., or Thursday 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. near the Pitman High School Auditorium entrance. Meals are free for all children under the age of 18 in the district and consist of a week of breakfasts and lunches for each child.

As a reminder, please follow all protocols when any child or their cohabitants are ill, and please communicate with your child's school nurse regarding any symptoms or illnesses.

Councilman Weng

Pitman Police Department

Councilman Weng and Chief McAteer would like to applaud and thank Detective Nick Barbetta for his work, along with the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey State Police - Trafficking South Unit, for his assistance and participation in a long-term electronic surveillance narcotics investigation throughout South Jersey. The investigation ultimately led to the arrest of three subjects on various narcotics and weapons related offenses and the seizure of approximately 1.3 kilograms of heroin and fentanyl, 1.5 pounds of marijuana, one firearm, and over \$11,000 of U.S. Currency. Chief McAteer and I commend and thank Detective Barbetta for his hard work and dedication on a job well done.

All Pitman Police Department officers who were given their first round of Covid-19 vaccination shots have received their second shot.

The Pitman Police Department will return to a "normal" work schedule on Monday, March 1, but will remain working under Covid-19 precautionary restrictions & guidelines as outlined in the General Order issued by Chief McAteer.

Council President Blass

Sustainable Pitman

The Sustainable Pitman Committee met on January 28. The Committee once again chose Jim Aspras as their Chairman. They discussed options for maintaining Bronze Certification this year and discussed options for grant applications.

Department of Public Works

I must wholeheartedly thank the Public Works Department for their dedication during our two recent snowstorms, both of which hit on a weekend. The crews spent 146 hours getting the town back in shape after the storms, which included plowing streets, clearing Borough lots, and Borough sidewalks. It also involved putting sand and salt in troublesome areas.

In January, solid waste collection totaled 294.69 tons, at a cost \$22,685.12 for the Borough. Single Stream Recycling collection totaled 82.93 tons and cost the Borough \$5,833.75 for disposal. The Borough sold 2.4 tons of metal to Sims Metal and received \$510.15 in revenue.

Highway Department

- Collected ten loads of trash (89.82 tons)
- Collected eight loads of recyclables (32.21 tons)
- Collected twenty-nine yards of brush
- Collected three truckloads of bulk trash
- Repaired or replaced numerous street signs in town
- Spent three hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Spent two hours grinding leaves and brush for mulch
- Delivered one new trash can and three recycling cans to residences

Water and Sewer Department

- Performed twenty-five water and sewer mark-out requests
- Plunged out six sewer stoppages
- Performed routine well work (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples
- Read six meters for real estate settlements
- Replaced one residential meter body
- Opened water tower for antenna maintenance by AT&T
- Printed four data logger reports (both daily and hourly) from the flow report, prior to billing
- Repaired damaged fire hydrant at Cedar and Cleveland Avenues
- Repaired service leaks on Albert Avenue and Boundary Road

There has been a rash of water main breaks due to the extreme cold weather. Repairs were performed on Montgomery-Kenton-Colonial Avenues, Hudson and Elm, Franklin-Pitman-Wayne Avenues and on Wildwood Avenue.

Councilman Rudley

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission met on Thursday night, February 4, via Zoom for its regularly scheduled meeting. The members discussed hosting an Earth Day celebration despite the cancellation of the Spring Craft Show. Usually the Earth Day events are held at the Craft Show. The Commission members have decided to seek approval for an educational, and fun, Earth Day event to take place on April 17, 2021, with a rain date of April 24, 2021. More details will be released once approval is obtained and plans are finalized.

The first meeting of the subcommittee on recycling took place on February 3, also via Zoom. This was an introductory meeting where goals were discussed.

Senior Outreach Committee

Senior Outreach will meet again on Thursday, February 18.

Public Property

As of 10:30 a.m. today, there were 506 responses to the survey regarding the Glassboro-Camden Rail Line.

Please share the link and ask your friends and neighbors to provide their comments. If you are aware of someone who would like to complete the survey but is unable due to lack of technology or difficulty navigating the electronic format, please have them contact me. I want to make sure that all voices are heard.

Senator Madden's office was extremely helpful in putting me in touch with the Project Manager, Mike Venuto, of the Delaware River Port Authority. Mr. Venuto has agreed to virtually attend our March 8 Work Session to provide an update to Council and the Mayor regarding the GCL line. The Chief Engineer, John Hansen, is also scheduled to attend.

Memorabilia Committee

The Memorabilia Committee hopes to hold a celebration this summer of the 150th anniversary of Pitman's first Camp Meeting in 1871. Plans are in the works, though the committee is not scheduled to meet again until April.

Please feel free to contact me via telephone or e-mail if I can assist you in any way. My cell phone is 609-214-6342 and my e-mail is amy.rudley@pitman.org. Finally, contact me if you would like to be included in the plans for the Earth Day celebration or the 150th Anniversary of the first Pitman Camp Meeting.

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Construction Office

The Construction Office collected \$125,050.00 in permit fees for the year 2020. Registrar fees collected in 2020 totaled \$9,207.00.

A virtual meeting is scheduled for this Thursday to get an update on the status of the former Sony property on Woodbury Road and the owner's interest in redeveloping the land and/or the building. The call will include the owner of the property, his attorney, Mayor Razze, the Borough Administrator, the Planning and Zoning Board Chairman, and myself.

New Business

Ordinance No. 1, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Repealing and Replacing Chapter 26, Stormwater Management, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Introduction

Final Adoption: February 22, 2021

Motion: Blass

Second: Mazzola

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. 33, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes – Wells Fargo

Motion: Mazzola

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. 34, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes - CoreLogic

Motion: Mazzola

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. 35, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Cancelling Outstanding Checks of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Mazzola

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. 36, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of a Bulk Trash Collection Fee for 120 S. Woodbury Road, Block 87 Lot 10, in the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Mazzola

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. 37, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Advertisement for Sale by Sealed Bid of Two (2) Separate Plenary Retail Consumption Licenses

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Councilman Fitzpatrick – Are we are certain by the statute that we can issue two? It does say the population count on the most recent estimate of the U.S. Census Bureau is the number to be used to determine how many licenses a municipality may issue.

Borough Solicitor Krachun - Our understanding is that they are based entirely on the most recent accepted census data. We are moving forward with that under this resolution. But until the census has been completed, we do not have updated numerical figures for the number of residents in town, so we are using the previous census.

Administrator O'Donnell - I have a call into NJ-ABC and am waiting for a response. I was initially told that they use the last census numbers, which would be the 2010 count. In reading through N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.14, it states that the number of licenses issued is according to the most recent estimates issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, until the official federal count is received by the Governor. There are estimates issued often; there was an estimate issued in 2018 and again in 2019. This is the question I was trying to ask NJ-ABC today. Are we using the estimated population numbers that were put out in 2019, or the population count of the 2010 U.S. Census? The difference in the count changes the available licenses available from two to one.

Councilman Fitzpatrick - It sounds like the solicitor should give an interpretation on that statute. I think it seems clear.

Councilman Weng - Perhaps this is something we want to table to give us two weeks to get a definitive answer. We are putting the Solicitor on the spot; his interpretation is just that. We need to get an official word from somebody before we make an error of judgment.

Solicitor Krachun - I'm going to agree with Councilman Weng. I think it would be out of place to just read the statute and tell you what it means at this point. I would like to take a little more time to properly research and ideally get a definitive answer from the NJ-ABC.

Councilman Blass - Since we have everything ready to go, can we vote on one?

Solicitor – Absolutely, if you wanted to start the ball rolling, go ahead, and amend this to a singular license. You can vote on it as amended, and if we get the news we will likely get over the next two weeks, we can certainly add the next one.

Mayor Razzo - Or perhaps we can wait and see what the first one brings. Looking at the timeline the census data is coming out in March, or it is thought it might come out in March. As far as the timeline for the advertisement, I don't know if two will make the deadline anyway. So are we amending this resolution to go for one, or tabling it until the next meeting?

Councilman Mazzola - Does it create any more work for one, and then for the second? Is it cost effective to do this?

Solicitor - Cost wise you will have to advertise both sales. If we have the same qualifying bidders, the police may or may not have to do much in their investigations. The primary cost comes from advertising.

Councilman Weng - We should vote on one today.

Mayor Razzo (to Councilman Mazzola) - Councilman is this okay with you?

Councilman Mazzola - Yes Mayor, this is a solid plan to move forward with one and wait for further information on the second.

Councilman Weng – I second that amended motion.

Councilwoman James - Did we clarify that the former Armory property is included in the zoning section as it is now?

Solicitor - If you look at the resolution as it is written, we specifically wrote in that redevelopment zone. The Armory is currently zoned residential, so we just wrote in that specific redevelopment area.

Mayor Razzo - Just to be clear, know that the restrictions and requirements we put on the license if you will, on the sale, those requirements only stick with the initial license award issuance. What about when the license is sold to another party, do the restrictions and requirements stay with this license if it moves to another owner?

Solicitor - My understanding is that those requirements carry along with the license itself. Section 2C of the Notice of the Sale, where it talks about if the successful bidder perhaps doesn't meet those guidelines, they have up to two years to reach that point, and if they do not, then that license is rescinded. That would also apply during the two years if that license were sold to someone else. It does not reset the clock.

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. 38, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Payment #2 (Final) to Pioneer Pipe Contractors, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,536.63 for the Resurfacing and Safety Improvements to Bellevue Avenue

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. 39, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Electronic Recyclers International, Inc. for the 2021 Collection and Recycling of CED and Non-CED E-Waste for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Blass

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

Mayor Razze suggested that an item list be created of what electronics will be accepted for recycling and get it out to the public as soon as possible.

Resolution No. 40, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to OMNI Recycling, LLC for the Acceptance of the Borough of Pitman’s Generated Recyclables

Motion: Blass

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to #40102 and #16523; approves all other items on the list of bills

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Wellness Day to Support Mental Health

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Contact Person: Emily Crowley

Attendance: 5-7 Team members; number of participants will follow COVID restrictions in place at the time

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 Razzo: _____

Event Permit was approved contingent upon the applicant providing the Borough with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured, a signed Facilities Use Form for the Sunset Auditorium, understanding by the Applicant that all COVID-19 protocols in place by Governor Murphy are to be followed, and that the damage to Sunset Auditorium caused by a fallen tree is restored to safety standards.

Event: Pitman Little League Board Meetings

Dates: Monthly; see application for dates

Time: 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Borough Hall

Attendance: 5-15 Board Members

Contact Person: Kristen Wojtkowiak

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 Razzo: _____

Approval is contingent upon Borough Hall being re-opened to the public at the time of the meetings.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Fitzpatrick

Second: Rudley

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Peter Slack, 53 S. Broadway - Mr. Slack said that at the last Borough Council meeting his impression was that Council was interested in issuing two alcohol licenses if they could, which means that we would have to have a population of 9000 or more to do so. Now, he said, he is hearing tonight that some people question if we even have a population of 9000, and he is wondering if the count is based on the census from ten years ago or based on recent estimates. He asked if Council is going to wait and see if we can sell a second one until after we get that information. He said that his understanding is that Council would like to put one out now, and he asked that if it turns out through the investigation this week that the Borough can we put a second one out based on the census from 10 years ago, would Council then put two out at that time? Would tonight’s resolution be modified to reflect two licenses, or would another resolution be done quickly to do this now before the new census population count comes out.

Mayor Razzo - My understanding from the discussion had here was if we are able to issue a second one that would be done at the next Council meeting.

Council President Blass - That's what I want to do.

Solicitor - For a second sale it must be a second resolution.

Kevin Austin, 562 Florence Avenue - Why do we want to put one out quick and then wait and see if we are going to get another one? Wouldn't it be better to find out exactly what we need for two? Just wait and see what the investigation brings then do both at the next meeting.

Mr. Austin said that Councilman Fitzpatrick mentioned a phone call with the owners of the former Sony property; what is this about?

Councilman Fitzpatrick - Just to get an update on the property and to see what their plans are, and to try to encourage them to do something that would benefit the Borough.

Kevin Austin - It might be wise to touch base with the Borough Fire Marshal. Also, regarding Sunset Auditorium, is there a proposal to repair this?

Mayor - Yes

Administrator O'Donnell - There is a proposal to begin work. We have contracted with Allrisk which is a company approved by the TRICO Joint Insurance Fund. It was recommended that we go with Allrisk and allow the JIF to deal directly with them on behalf of the Borough.

Motion to close the public portion: James
Time: 8:38 p.m. Second: Rudley

Adjournment

Motion: Weng
Time: 8:38 p.m. Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator