

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2021**

Call to Order

Time: 8:04 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 Razze: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Resolution No. 88, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Appointment of SLEO Class II Sebastian Leon as a Patrolman for the Borough of Pitman Police Department

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

At this time SLEO Class II Sebastian Leon was sworn in as Patrolman by Mayor Razze.

Special Recognition Plaque Presentation

Mayor Razze names the Pitman Hobo Band as Grand Marshal of the Pitman Fourth of July Parade.

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Council Meeting and Closed Council Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021

Motion: James

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Abstain
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

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

Council Reports

Councilman Fitzpatrick

The Gloucester County Tax Assessor's Office has hired an appraiser for the tax assessment of the former Sony property. The report should be ready in October. So far, forty-two percent of the residential inspections are complete, with a sixty-six percent entry rate. Almost fifty percent of the commercial inspections are complete with just about one hundred percent that include an interior inspection.

Construction Office

During the month of May the Construction Office processed sixty-four permits and fifty-four Certificates of Continued Occupancy. There were 126 inspections and total fees collected were \$13,365.00.

Environmental Commission

I am working with Environmental Commission Chairman Jim Aspras on a bike trail to connect the end of the Carew Trail to the downtown, and then to the entrance of Ceres Park.

Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The next Combined Planning and Zoning Board meeting will be on July 19 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Councilwoman James

2021 Liaison: Parks & Recreation, Public Events, Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

Public Events

Pitman has a lot of exciting events coming up to celebrate Independence Day!

- Friday, July 2, 2021, 7:30 p.m. - The Miss Pitman Pageant will be held at Pitman High School. Councilwoman Rudley will provide additional details in her Council Report.
- Monday, July 5, 2021, 8:45 a.m. - The 40th Annual Pitman Freedom Four Mile Road Race will take place. You can register on the Borough website. In person and virtual running options are available!
- Monday, July 5, 2021, 9:55 a.m. – Pitman's Independence Day Parade – the theme is "Pitman Celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Camp Grove Meeting." This year's parade will include a "quiet zone" on Broadway between Arbutus and Myrtle Avenues for those children and adults who are sensitive to elevated sound.
- Monday, July 5, 2021, at Dusk – Pitman's Independence Day Fireworks Display, Alcyon Lake/Alcyon Park/Betty Park. The fireworks can be viewed from Betty Park or surrounding areas. For those looking for an unobstructed view of the fireworks, tickets can be purchased for \$3.00 per ticket to help offset the cost of the display. Only 300 tickets will be available for viewing from inside Alcyon Park. Tickets can be obtained at Borough Hall, Brio Beauty Studio & Skincare Clinic, and Pitman Jewelry Shop.

Parks & Recreation

Summer programs for the Parks & Recreation Department are now live on the Borough website under the Parks & Recreation tab.

https://www.pitman.org/departments/parks_recreation/programs/summer.php

Sunset Auditorium Repairs

Public Works Manager Fred Rodi and the Water and Sewer Division of Public Works are planning to address the plumbing issues at Sunset Auditorium in-house. We are hopeful that repairs will take place in the next week or two.

Glen Lake Issues

Our Parks and Recreation Department is continuing to reach out to the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection regarding the dead fish at Glen Lake that were found earlier this month. We do not have an answer as to the potential cause. We will keep Mayor & Council advised of the situation as it evolves.

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Pop-Up Park Thursdays continue this week at Ballard Park from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Laurel Market Pitman is open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Sunset Auditorium.

Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion

It was truly a pleasure working with Mayor Razze and the members of the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion over the last year. I want to thank the members of the Task Force for their hard work in preparing their report and recommendations. I also want to thank Administrator O'Donnell, Chief McAteer, Deputy Chief Zander, Public Works Manager Rodi, and the other supervisors and employees who were so generous in providing the information and taking the time to meet and answer questions with Task Force members. I have continued to be impressed with the care and attention that all the Task Force members and Borough staff took in investigating these important issues and the respectful manner they were discussed at our meetings.

I have no doubt that Pitman will benefit from the work done by the Task Force as we move toward making our borough a more inclusive and safe community for everyone.

PRIDE in Pitman

Congratulations to the Pride Alliance of Pitman on a wonderful event on Saturday! 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 Blass

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee met on June 17, 2021. The Committee continues to work on finishing the Theatre Avenue project. They are in the process of getting prices for the last items to be completed. They are working diligently to get E/V a charging station in the Borough.

Public Works

For the first half of June, the Highway Department

- Collected nine loads of trash
- Collected six loads of recyclables
- Collected eighty-four yards of brush
- Spent three hours grinding leaves and brush for mulch
- Spent two hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Delivered six yards of mulch to residents
- Spent forty-five hours mowing and weed whacking
- Dropped off a truck for yard debris to five residents and picked up the next day
- Completed about forty curbside inspections per week of recycling containers
- Spent seven hours cleaning the tops of storm drains

The Water and Sewer Department

- Performed twenty-two water and sewer mark out requests
- Plunged out four sewer stoppages
- Performed routine well work (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples
- Read nine meters for real estate settlements
- Replaced one meter body
- Upgraded ten meter heads
- Sealed off a leak under East Avenue

Tomorrow there is a pre-construction meeting for the Tuohy Avenue project. This will establish when the project begins, and how long it will take to complete.

The Eighth Avenue drainage project will be going out to bid soon.

Councilman Mazzola

Board of Education

As the school year has concluded with successful celebrations of our 8th grade students moving to Pitman High School and our High School students moving on to further their education, serve in the military, or join the workforce, I would like to take a moment to thank the teachers and faculty, as well as the students, from all the Pitman Schools for their efforts during another very challenging year.

Administration

Tomorrow, June 29, 2021, the Borough will participate in two reverse auctions for energy suppliers. One auction will be for streetlights and the other will be for the metered usage at Borough properties. The Borough has had these auctions every two years since 2011. Atlantic City Electric remains our provider.

Also, tomorrow, at 1:00 p.m. a preconstruction meeting will be held for the Tuohy Avenue Reconstruction Project.

Borough offices and services will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Tickets for the fireworks at Alcyon Park are available at Borough Hall, Pitman Jewelry, and Brio's. A limited number of tickets are available and should be purchased by this Friday.

Councilman Weng

The following is my report for the Council meeting being held this evening, Monday, June 28, 2021. Please let me know if you need any clarification or have any questions.

Pitman Police Department

- P/O Khoury, P/O Edwards and S/O Leon each attended the Advanced Street Survival training, on June 23 and June 24 in Atlantic City.

- Chief McAteer and Deputy Chief Zander along with all three sergeants and all three corporals each attended the 2021 JIF/MEL Risk Management Training this month. The trainings were held on three different dates and locations.

- Detective Barbetta & Investigator Bailey each attended NJSP Internal Affairs Training on June 1, 2021, through June 4, 2021.

Councilwoman Rudley

Environmental Commission

The Environmental has not met since our last Council meeting. However, the wildflower/butterfly garden planting project is underway and set for July 10, 2021. The Commission has been in touch with the Parks and Recreation Department personnel to ensure that the overlook is repaired prior to the plantings, so that the plantings are not disturbed by the work.

The Environmental Commission will not meet on July 1, 2021, due to the unavailability of most of the group's members.

Miss Pitman Pageant

The Miss Pitman Pageant will take place on Friday, July 2, 2021, at the Pitman High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale on June 30 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Borough Hall and then from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium Lobby on both June 30 and July 1.

Public Property

Council President Blass and I met with the Borough Engineer last week to discuss the next steps for bringing the Grove Auditorium into compliance with the long term plans for improvement.

In addition, a tree is being removed from an area of public property on Eighth Avenue. It is dead and is beginning to pose a danger to the surrounding area.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Pop-Up Park was a great success. Thank you to committee members for all their help and support, as well as to Senator Madden's office for the resource material, to our Pitman Police Department for their advice to our Seniors regarding scams, and to Steve Weideman our bus driver for getting the riders to the event.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Independence Day. If you should need me, please do not hesitate to reach out at 609-214-6342 or via e-mail at amy.rudley@pitman.org.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 4, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 5, Animal Control, of the Code Book of the Borough of Pitman to Add a Section to be Entitled, Backyard Chicken Pilot Program

Final Adoption (Public Hearing was on June 14, 2021)

Motion: Fitzpatrick

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: _____

New Business

Ordinance No. 5, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Ordinance No. 1, 2021 Repealing and Replacing Chapter 26, Stormwater Management of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading – Second Reading / Public Hearing July 12, 2021

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: _____

Ordinance No. 6, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses Within its Geographical Boundaries and Amending Chapter 35, Zoning, Section 36, Prohibited Uses In Districts, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading – Second Reading / Public Hearing July 26, 2021

Motion: Fitzpatrick

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. 89, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity Supply Services for Public Use on an Online Auction Website: GS Meters

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. 90, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity Supply Services for Public Use on an Online Auction Services of EMEX, LLC-1: Lighting Meters

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. 91, 2021 – 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 – 163 E. Holly Avenue

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. 92, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Donating a 2004 Crown Victoria to the Borough's Fire Department

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. 93, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Donating a 2005 Crown Victoria to the Borough's Fire Department

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. 94, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Declaring June 2021 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to #50251; votes to approve all other items on the payment list

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Monthly Meetings

Date and Time: Last Wednesday of each month, June - October 2021; 7:30 p.m.

Location: Borough Hall Conference Room

Sponsor: Pitman Republican Executive Committee

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Abstain

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Event: The Lizard Guys

Date and Time: July 1, 2021; 11:30 a.m.

Location: Ballard Park

Sponsor: McCowan Memorial Library

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: Children's Dance Party

Date and Time: August 27, 2021; 10:30 a.m.

Location: Ballard Park

Sponsor: McCowan Memorial Library

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

Event: Free Reiki in the Park

Date and Time: July 6, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Location: Shertel Park

Sponsor: The Rooted Cardinal; Ashley Shaw

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: Summer Playground Outdoor Movie

Date and Time: July 7, 2021; 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Pitman Recreation Department

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: _____

Raffle License Applications

Organization: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Date and Time: September 1, 2021 – September 4, 2021; 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Location: Annual Labor Day Carnival on PHS property, Linden and Edgemoor Avenues

Types of Raffles: Off Premises: Big 50/50

On Premises: Nightly 50/50

On Premises: Nightly TV or MP3 Player

Non-Draw: Wheels and Skills

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: 8:38 p.m.

Eileen Salmon 25 Cedar Avenue – Ms. Salmon is opposed to changing the town Seal, saying history is to learn from, not to change or destroy, and that it represents the founding of the Borough. She stated that while other Seals have been created, they were specific for the celebration, never intended to replace the original Seal. Ms. Salmon also stated that with having 337 responses to the survey distributed by the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, which included only some of the respondents wanting to change the Seal, she considers those results to be very far from a mandate from the residents.

Carol Fox, 28 Lexington Avenue – Ms. Fox stated that government cannot legislate love and respect, asking why schools are allowed to teach about diversity, but cannot teach about Christianity. She said that if schools were permitted to present both, then this would take care of teaching love and respect for everyone equally.

Ms. Fox asked what is the plan for the Borough Seal? She asked what picture could possibly represent everyone's individual perception of a family, and stated that as a single parent, she is not offended by the Seal.

Tom Robinson, 581 Lambs Road – Mr. Robinson said that the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion is a good thing but finds that a lot of the recommendations seem preferential, and he is against that. Also, he said that he finds it insulting that 337 people want to change the Borough Seal that has been in place 'longer than any of us' and that the Task Force would carry such a strong recommendation to Council based on a survey of only 300+ people.

Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue – Mr. Madison said that he is against parking on the street overnight in the Borough, especially if permitted on both sides of the street. He recalled that Sunset Auditorium and Cleveland Avenue parking lots were both paved in the past for Grove residents to park there during snowstorms.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney asked why the Borough is permitting First Avenue to be blocked by tables used for outside diners which obscure the Butterfly Garden now in bloom. He said that he is against tables there and in front of Borough Hall. He also asked of the status of the Wildflower Garden planned for Alcyon Lake Park.

Jeffrey Knauss, 222 Embury Avenue – Mr. Knauss said that he is proud to be a resident in an inclusive town and feels that everyone should feel included where they live.

He thanked Councilwoman James for her suggestion that the Historic Grove area should be given dispensation on parking since the properties do not have individual parking spaces.

Richard McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway – Mr. McIlvaine asked how the surveys were distributed, stating that the survey does not represent everyone in town.

Mr. McIlvaine stated that he is not in favor of abolishing the ordinance against overnight parking on Borough streets, asked what is not inclusive about the Borough Seal, and asked what the Borough is doing about what killed the fish in Glen Lake.

Councilwoman James said that the cause of the fish dying is still unknown and that the Borough has

spoken with the engineers who were repaving the road and they don't think it had anything to do with the repaving project. Parks and Recreation Director Andy Fox has been in contact with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Borough is following up with them to see what suggestions they have for us. Councilwoman James said that we are hoping to get water testing completed and that she hasn't heard of any additional problems.

Noah Burrows, 232 Lake Avenue – Mr. Burrows thanked Council for approving the Backyard Chicken Ordinance.

Beth McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway – Ms. McIlvaine asked who was surveyed and when the survey went out to the public. She said that she is not in favor of allowing parking on the street overnight due to safety and security issues.

Councilwoman James replied that the surveys were sent out on social media, it was on the Borough website, sent home through the schools and the link was also in the last Pitman Newsletter. She explained that what was presented was just a report and recommendations based on the survey, saying that ultimately it is Council's decision on how we want to move forward. Councilwoman James said that Council welcomes the personal opinions and feedback the residents are providing.

Tammy Razzo, 510 N. Broadway – Ms. Razzo asked regarding bike safety if it is or is not the law that individuals aged 14 and under are required to wear bike helmets. She said that there is a large group of juveniles, boys and girls riding their bikes every day, all day long who are younger than 14 years old without helmets. Ms. Razzo said that they text while they ride their bikes, not paying attention, and wondered if anything can be done about this unsafe situation.

Chief McAteer's statement:

Public Safety is the first thing on every officer's mind. We have a lot of balancing to do. It is not that simple like everyone thinks it is, believes it is. We have worked with Mayor and Council regarding this. Director Weng has been very active in this process. I've met with the business association about this issue. We have taken the steps and we are continuing to take steps. I hear your concerns and I hear the whole community.

Mayor Razzo asked what happens when the Police Officers see kids on their bikes without a helmet.

Chief McAteer

This is part of the issue. So when we see kids with no helmets our options are somewhat limited and the main thing we can do is write this juvenile a motor vehicle summons, but the Judge does not want to see this in court. We are trying to educate everyone. Next week Councilwoman James will be having a Pop-up Park and one of the main things that we will be talking about is bike safety and the importance of wearing a helmet. The School Resource Officers will continue to speak to the kids and educate them on bike safety. I suggest to you, and the entire community, to please call 911 every time you see this happening so we can at least get out to the area where these juveniles are riding their bikes.

David Rue, 526 Carew Avenue - Mr. Rue said that the word he keeps hearing tonight is "respect". He said that how a society is judged is by how they treat each other, and that he feels respect is needed between all people and that we should all respect each other.

Margaret Dutill, 103 Wildwood Avenue – Ms. Dutill asked how there can be a discussion about inclusion when others feel excluded. She said that she doesn't feel the nuclear family should be ignored when talking about inclusion. She stated that she has never been offended by the Borough Seal, and whether one likes it or not, the picture on the Seal is a part of history and the founding of the Borough and should not be erased. Ms. Dutill concluded by saying that if we are going to live in a community, we need to make sure everybody is included and respected.

Kara Knauss, 222 Embury Avenue – Ms. Knauss said that there are many different types of families living in town but feels that people are not being neighborly toward the LGBTQA community. She said that the PRIDE flags are representative of inclusion and safety and that people should not be able to decide who has a right to live anywhere. Ms. Knauss said that she has heard a lot of judgment being spoken tonight and references made to sinfulness, but she has not heard anyone speak on how to heal the division within the community, or how to be accepting of each other as members of the same community. Ms. Knauss thanked Mayor and Council for approving the Resolution in favor of supporting the LGBTQIA+ community in Pitman.

Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue - Mr. Madison mentioned that large numbers of fish have died in the lake in the past and it has been attributed to there not being enough oxygen in the lake. He suggested that aerators be installed.

Mike Grillo, 155 West Avenue – Mr. Grillo thanked Mayor and Council for establishing the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, and everyone who volunteered their time to be a part of it. Mr. Grillo stated that the month of June was amazing and the PRIDE event held at the First Baptist Church of Pitman last weekend was wonderful. He said that he understands some people's aversion to the Borough Seal.

Mr. Grillo concluded by saying that the statements made this evening by some of the residents who quoted Scripture and Bible verse and saying that actions and lifestyles are sinful is a form of bullying against the LGBTQIA+ community and their statements reminded him that there is still much work to be done as a community to gain acceptance.

Scott McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway - Mr. McIlvaine said that the PRIDE flags in town are not about sin; it's about Council who are elected to represent the community of Pitman and to serve all residents. He said that the flags do not represent most of the residents and Council should not approve things that are divisive to the residents.

Kara Knauss, 222 Embury Avenue – Ms. Knauss said that the Pride Alliance raised the funds needed to purchase the flags, submitted an Event Permit, and received permission from Council to hang the flags. She said that the statements made by many members of the public at the meeting this evening are divisive. Ms. Knauss also spoke of the suicide rate of young people/children who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community and how it is important for them to be and feel accepted.

Danielle Cooke, 227 Boulevard Avenue – Ms. Cooke said that it only takes one person showing acceptance to a child in the LGBTQ community to save that child if they are struggling. She thanked Council for their support of their community.

Christian McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway – Mr. McIlvaine said that no one who spoke during the public portion called anyone a sinner. He said that he is not opposed to the PRIDE flag if it is hung on someone’s home but does not believe that it should be hung on public property in the Borough.

Jacob Bernard, 521 Wildwood Avenue – Mr. Bernard thanked the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion for their efforts. As a member of the Task Force he said that the survey was originally intended to be only for the members of the Task Force. Regarding the PRIDE flags, he said that he is proud that the Borough is moving forward on the issue of inclusion, and thanked Council for taking the comments expressed in the report seriously.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng
Time: 9:40 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Adjournment

Motion: Blass
Time: 9:41 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O’Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator