

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2021**

Call to Order

Time: 8:09 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 and Council Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

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 Matthew Weng

Police Department

Chief McAteer would like to thank both the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion and the Pitman Anti-Racist Collective (PARC) for allowing him an opportunity to speak with them and answer questions. Both appearances occurred several weeks ago and Chief McAteer looks forward to meeting with both groups again.

The Pitman Police Department will be participating in the Distracted Driver Campaign in the next few weeks and would like to remind all motorists to please, put your phone and other distractions away and drive safely.

Although overnight parking enforcement continues to be suspended, the Police Department would like to remind all motorists and residents that all other parking violations remain enforceable including, parking facing oncoming traffic, and parked blocking a driveway, both of which have recently been occurring and have been enforced.

Councilman Adam Mazzola
Pitman Board of Education

The Pitman Board of Education meeting on March 17 included a review of the 2021-2022 school budget. This budget includes a reduction in New Jersey State Aid of \$879,000.00 with the deduction being accelerated from a seven year span to a three year span. These cuts are increasing as our enrollment decreases. We currently have 418 fewer students enrolled in the district schools than we did in 2012-13. Along with the challenge of declining enrollment, the district also faces issues with the facilities including roofs, parking lots, boilers, and reductions in federal grants. Additional spending is earmarked for Chromebook upgrades, software, support for learning loss due to the pandemic, and an upgrade to the playground equipment at Memorial School. As of the time of the meeting there were no planned cuts to staff unless through possible attrition. Due to these cuts in funding, the school district will be seeking a 2% increase in their tax collection.

Parents should have received an email from Superintendent McAleer on March 19 asking for parent and community support in writing to the Governor and state legislators voicing concerns over the school funding cuts. Later this evening I will be introducing a Resolution in support of our Pitman students and this effort.

If you are interested in participating but do not have the information provided, please let me know and I would be happy to help you.

Councilwoman Vanessa E. James
Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring an Egg Scramble at Shertel Park on Saturday, March 27, starting at 9:00 a.m. Registration is required and can be found on the Announcement section of the Borough's website. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4baea729a4f58-pitmans>

Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

The Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion will hold its monthly meeting this Thursday, March 25 via Zoom. The link for the meeting can be found on the Borough's website under the virtual meetings tab. https://www.pitman.org/T7_R57.php

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 John Fitzpatrick
Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board met on March 15, 2021. The Board's appointed Planner, Tim Kernan, gave an update on the recently passed recreational marijuana legislation. The P/Z Board members will discuss the options next month and will make a recommendation to Council.

The Borough's Zoning Officer approved thirteen permits and denied one in the last month. Eight properties were inspected for possible Code violations.

The Historic Preservation Commission referred three applications to the Planning/Zoning Board in March.

The Code Enforcement and Housing Officers continue to work on identifying abandoned properties in the Borough and get them registered with ProChamps, who in turn works with mortgage holders to rehabilitate the properties or put them on the market.

Councilwoman Amy Rudley

Environmental Commission/Public Property

On Thursday, March 11, I had the opportunity to join Councilman Weng, Councilwoman James, Chief McAteer, Deputy Chief Zander, and Sergeant Streater on a walking inspection of a tract of wooded land in the borough to discuss some policing and other issues. During this inspection, I noted some environmental concerns and met the following day on March 12, as well as on Sunday March 14, with members of our Environmental Commission to take a further look. One notable concern was large plastic sheeting which was either being dumped or carelessly discarded onto Borough property. I filed a police report and an officer was assigned. Within twenty-four hours of receiving my report, the responsible party had been out to the site and cleaned up a substantial portion of the mess. We were assured that they were taking measures to prevent it from happening again in the future. Likewise, I filed an additional police report this month regarding the callous destruction of sapling trees planted across various parks in the borough. The trees were purchased with Borough funds and were destroyed by vandals. Please report any destruction of public property that you observe. This is a waste of our tax dollars and of our time in procuring and planting the trees.

On a brighter note, the Environmental Commission will hold its Earth Day Celebration on April 17 with two sessions rotating through three locations. Session 1 is 10:00 – 12:00 and Session 2 is 1:00 – 3:00. Registration is required for this free event and space is limited. A Signup Genius site will be released soon. There is a rain date of April 24.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Outreach Committee is planning a Senior Citizen Pop-up Park event on June 24, 2021. This will be a combination event with live entertainment, antique cars, and helpful information for Seniors. This will be in conjunction with the Pop-up Park planned by the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce .

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need anything or have any questions. My cell remains 609-214-6342 and my e-mail is amy.rudley@pitman.org. Take care and stay safe.

Council President Paul Blass

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee met via Zoom on March 18. Walt Madison, Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission, provided the EDC with a summary of what the HPC does, with a focus on businesses. The discussion continued with emphasis on examining the EDC’s responsibilities based on the Borough’s ordinance establishing that committee.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission met via Zoom on March 11. Three applications were reviewed involving a roof and gutters, a business sign, and a house color. All applications were approved.

Public Works

Highway Division

- Collected eleven loads of trash totaling 116.55 tons
- Collected eleven loads of recyclables totaling 38.09 tons
- Collected 113 yards of brush
- Spent three hours grinding leaves and brush for mulch
- Collected eight truckloads of bulk trash

- Replaced twenty-five signs throughout the Borough, mostly *No Parking Anytime*, *25mph Speed Limit*, and *Stop* signs. All were faded and could barely be read
- Spent three hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Ran street sweeper for two hours
- Delivered eight yards of mulch to residents
- Painted curbing at the corner of Pitman Ave. and S. Broadway (on the library side) at the request of the Police Department

Water and Sewer Division

- Performed twenty-three water and sewer mark outs requests
- Plunged out four sewer stoppages
- Performed routine well work (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples
- Read eight meters for real estate settlements
- Replaced one meter body
- Opened water tower for AT&T

New Business

Resolution No. 48, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Closed Meeting

The general nature of the subjects to be discussed at said meeting will be:

Real Estate Negotiations

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

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 _____

Resolution No. 50, 2021 – Resolution Amending Resolution No. 104, 2020 Authorizing Merryman’s Pub Use of Municipal Sidewalk and Parking Lot for the Serving of Food and Alcohol in Compliance With Their Retail Consumption License and in Accordance with Executive Order No. 2020-150

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: _____

Resolution No. 51, 2021 – Resolution Amending Resolution No. 170, 2020 Authorizing Kelly Green Brewery, Human Village Brewery, and Stage Right Wine Bar to Use Municipal Sidewalk in Compliance with Executive Order No. 2020-150

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

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

Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 52, 2021 – Resolution Authorizing the Extension of 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 to October 3, 2021

Motion: Rudley

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. 53, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, in Support of the *Support Our Students Initiative*

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Solicitor Krachun interrupted Roll Call to advise Council President Blass and Councilman Weng to abstain from voting on this Resolution due to a personal conflict. Resolution No. 53, 2021 was Re-introduced by Councilman Mazzola.

Motion: Mazzola

Second: James

Roll Call:

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

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

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

Event Permit Applications

Event: Amendment to Food Trucks During Little League Games

Approved on March 8, 2021

Date: Multiple dates throughout the season, April 21, 2021 – July 21, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Alcyon Lake, Edgemoor Avenue, and Roy Harmon Fields

Sponsor: Pitman Little League

Motion: James

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

Event: Easter Sunrise Service

Date: Sunday, April 4, 2021

Time: 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Location: Betty Park

Sponsor: First Baptist Church of Pitman

Motion: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze ____

Second: Weng

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

Event: Zumba Classes for all ages

Date: March – December; Monday and Wednesday

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Personal Touch Group Fitness

Motion: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze ____

Second: Mazzola

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

Event: Church Service

Date: June 26, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Rally for the Nation

Motion: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze ____

Second: Mazzola

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

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: James

Time: 8:34 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue - Mr. Owen asked if the picnic tables to be placed in Ballard Park are for use by the public. He also stated that he thought it was a bad idea to allow people to bring alcoholic beverages to the

