

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 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 Razze: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Proclamation Presentation

Mayor Razze presented a Proclamation for National Poison Prevention Week, March 21-27, 2021

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Council Meeting and Closed Council Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021

Motion: Blass

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Combined Planning & Zoning Board

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board has not met since the last meeting of Mayor and Council. They will meet again on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom connection for the meeting will be on the Borough's website, www.pitman.org.

Councilman Fitzpatrick said that he has been meeting with Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Nick Aspras on the Backyard Chicken Pilot Program which has been proposed by several residents of the Borough.

Councilwoman James

Parks & Recreation

The Recreation Commission met on March 4 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. A description of the available Spring

Recreation programs can be found on the Borough website under the Parks and Recreation Department tab. https://www.pitman.org/departments/parks_recreation/programs/spring.php

The Parks & 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 in the Announcement section of the Borough website. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4baea729a4f58-pitmans>

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce will meet for their monthly meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Please follow the Uptown Pitman Facebook page for more information on some fun activities and specials for St. Patrick's Day. <https://www.facebook.com/uptownpitmanNJ>

Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

The Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion met via Zoom on February 25. The subcommittees reported on their progress and the group anticipates that they may have a draft report to review by the next meeting, which will be on March 25 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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 Weng

Police Department

The Pitman Police Department would like to thank Pitman based J2 Technology Solutions for helping in advancing the department's IT standards and offerings. With ever growing law enforcement demands, J2 assisted the PPD with improving and updating the router and officer email management system along with many other IT offerings while keeping the costs manageable. The Pitman Police Department values and thanks all our in-town partnerships.

The Pitman Police Department has received updated training and briefing on the new marijuana/cannabis legalization law. The department urges all residents to please review and understand this new law.

The PPD would like to remind our residents that there are two certified "Car Seat Technicians" on our staff who can help you with properly installing a car seat. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that fifty-nine percent of car seats are not installed correctly.

Councilman Mazzola

No report

Councilwoman Rudley

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission is moving forward with an Earth Day Celebration on April 17, 2021. The details are in the Event Permit Application to be heard today and there is a proposed rain date of April 24, 2021.

Senior Outreach Committee

Senior Outreach is working on preparing a list of all Senior Citizen discounts in the area. If you own or run a

business and offer a Senior Discount, please e-mail me the details and I will make sure it is included in our list.

Public Property

I met with some members of the Garden Club this weekend and they are eagerly looking forward to their spring work. I know I can speak on behalf of the entire town when I say that we appreciate their efforts at keeping Pitman beautiful. Thank you to the Public Works Department for removing evergreen bushes first thing Monday morning at the request of the Garden Club. This will provide them room for the pollinator garden they have planned for the First Avenue garden beds.

Mayor Razzo, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Fox, and Pastor Jeff Crispin from the Joy Fellowship Church and I met at Sunset Auditorium to discuss a donation that the Joy Fellowship Church would like to make toward some renovations to the Auditorium. They plan to donate paint, perform painting, and donate some additional monies for a few renovations. I would like to thank them for their investment in this historic building.

The Grove Auditorium suffered some vandalism over the weekend. Someone removed a side panel to gain access to the building. Public Works secured the building and the Police Department is investigating.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you ever need my assistance. My cell phone remains 609-214-6342 and my e-mail address is amy.rudley@pitman.org. Thank you and have a great night!

Council President Blass

Sustainable Pitman

Sustainable Pitman met via Zoom on February 25. The committee continued discussion on projects needed for Bronze Certification. In addition, it was decided to put in for a grant that would help with increasing composting.

Public Works

Since our last meeting, the Highway Department

- Collected ten loads of trash totaling 93.11 tons
- Collected eleven loads of recyclables totaling 40.72 tons
- Collected thirty yards of brush
- Collected five truckloads of bulk trash
- Spent six hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Ran the street sweeper for two hours

Water and Sewer Department

- Performed twenty-two water and sewer mark out requests
- Plunged out seven sewer stoppages
- Performed routine well work (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples
- Read four meters for real estate settlements

February totals

- Twenty-four loads to Wheelabrator at a cost of \$18,895.12 (245.87 tons)
- Twenty-three loads of Single Stream Recycling at a cost of \$5,733.58 (85.89 tons)
- Received \$510.15 for Sims Metal for metal scrap

E-waste recycled: 1.14 tons

New Business

Resolution No. 46, 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

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. 47, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Waiving Yard Sale Permit Fees for Local Residents Related to the Town Wide Yard Sale on June 5, 2021 and September 25, 2021

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 _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: James

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to # 40232 and #16562; approves all other items on the bill list

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Family Gathering

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium

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 _____

Event Permit Application approved contingent upon providing the Borough of Pitman with a Certificate of Liability Insurance Naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Event: Pitman Environmental Commission Annual Earth Day Celebration

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 (rain date Saturday, April 24, 2021)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park, Alcyon Lake Park, Hollywood Dell Park

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 _____

Event: Food Trucks During Little League Games

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

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 _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Mazzola

Time: 8:29 p.m.

Cheryl Reardon, 601 W. Holly Avenue, Apt. 49 – In response to questions from Ms. Reardon, Councilman Rudley stated that the Environmental Impact Study for the Glassboro-Camden Line is available online and that the train would make approximately ninety trips per day through the Borough. Ms. Reardon asked the following questions:

- If the station is to be a walk-up station, would shuttle buses be provided for riders?
- Has a cost analysis been done for the Borough on the impact of the train?
- Regarding the infrastructure of the train project, would there be an impact on endangered species of plants and wildlife? Also climate change effects?
- Regarding the Environmental Impact Study, have the issues of stormwater runoff, emissions, etc. been researched?

Councilman Weng replied that there has been no discussion yet on these issues and that the economic impact study would be done as the end of the project grows closer. Councilwoman Rudley said that the Borough's Economic Development Committee will be doing research as they are sure there will be some impact.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen said that he is not clear on how many trains will go through the borough daily both northbound and southbound. Regarding the safe crossing of children at intersections on their way to school, Mr. Owen asked if Crossing Guards will be placed at the railroad crossings. He mentioned that a resident spoke earlier in the Work Session of precautions being installed to keep children from crossing the tracks in undesignated areas and was told that fencing and landscaping would be used as a restriction. Mr. Owen said that he does not think landscaping is enough to keep children from crossing over the tracks.

Jim Pierpont, 23 Crafton Avenue – Mr. Pierpont said that his research showed that the passenger train was first proposed in 1998. He stated that his concerns center on the changes that have been made to the project since the public presentation to the Borough in 2008. One such change is that the project has now gone from the trains using one track to the construction of a second track. Mayor Razze agreed that the original proposal was to only use the existing single track for the trains.

Charles Hughes, 31 N. Childs Street, Woodbury, NJ – Mr. Hughes stated that in 1996 the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders passed a Resolution by a vote of 6-1 condemning the Glassboro-Camden Line. He went on to say that every municipality can pass a resolution in support or non-support of the GCL.

Steve Roth, 15 Mansfield Avenue – Mr. Roth asked what type of fence would be installed to keep people from crossing the tracks outside of designated areas and stated that he did not think a wooden fence would be appropriate due to potential for vandalism of the fence. Mayor Razze said that he will bring that concern to the attention of the New Jersey Transit office.

Mark Papadopoulos, 143 Glen Lake Boulevard – Mr. Papadopoulos expressed his concern about the water draining from the lake due to a crack in the plate on top of the dam. He wondered if there has been any progress with a solution since residents met with Borough officials weeks ago. He also said that the caps that were placed on the rebar was not a good idea as they will have to be replaced. Councilwoman James said that she does not have an update but will investigate Mr. Papadopoulos' question for answers. Mayor Razze said that the repairs that were made to the dam a couple of years ago appear to have worked but the concern now is the crack in the plate. Mr. Papadopoulos said that the repair may be too much of a job for the Borough and that outside help may be warranted.

Bill Ritzler, 517 N. Broadway – Mr. Ritzler presented the timeline on the studies that were performed in connection with the GCL and stated that in all four studies there was outreach and public input. The years in which the studies occurred are 1993, 1996, 2003, and 2009. He also stated that all efforts by the DRPA, PATCO, and New Jersey Transit as outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement conform with Executive Order 2015 which sets standards for the protection of the human environment and natural resources.

Regarding the Quiet Zones, Mr. Ritzler said that NJDOT must be part of the process to establish one, and that the Quiet Zone for the GCL is a separate process than to establish one for the Conrail train. Addressing a public question from the Work Session meeting, Mr. Ritzler said that the idea to elevate the platform and tracks would need to have been addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. It is too late to change the plans now to go from ground level to elevated tracks.

Stephanie Schiappa, 505 Pitman Avenue – Ms. Schiappa said that the introduction of the passenger train through Pitman will change the overall feel of living in a small town. She stated that many residents moved to Pitman to enjoy living in a quiet small town. She said that Council should fight hard for the residents and the reasons they continue to live here. Ms. Schiappa also inquired about the funding for the GCL project. Councilwoman Rudley stated that originally no stop was planned for the train in Pitman, but that in 2016 Borough Council requested a stop in Pitman, which was agreed to by the DRPA.

Ryan Riccobene, 327 E. Holly Avenue – Mr. Riccobene asked if there was a list of the fifty houses that were determined to be impacted by the train and said that he is concerned about the financial impact on the residents and the effect on their daily lives. Councilwoman Rudley said that an indirect effect would be on the valuation of homes but does not see a direct impact. Mr. Riccobene asked if Pitman will receive funds from the train coming through. Mayor Razze said that nothing has been established along those lines.

