

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:00 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

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session, Formal Meeting, and Closed Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2021

Motion: Blass

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

**Council Reports**

**Councilman Fitzpatrick**

**Construction Office**

The report from the property appraiser hired by the Gloucester County Tax Assessor's Office for the former Sony property should be ready in a week or two.

We are selling the tax liens for three abandoned properties in Pitman. So far there are two interested parties. Once they buy the liens they can foreclose, fix up, and sell or rent the properties.

### **Combined Planning & Zoning Board**

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board met on October 14, 2021, and had a very long meeting with the main topic being the Fazzio property. The hearing will be continued at the Board's next meeting on December 13, 2021.

### **Chicken Advisory Board**

The Chicken Advisory Board has been formed and will meet shortly to go over the schedule, applications for interested participants, and training.

### **Zoning Office**

The Zoning Officer issued fourteen permits, denied one, issued one violation notice, and inspected six properties for violations in October. He also had two meetings, one for an interpretation and one for an inspection.

### Councilwoman Vanessa E. James

#### **Parks & Recreation**

All major playing fields in town have been aerated and seeded for the fall. Soccer and Youth Football are ending. The pump track renovations are still underway, fixing drainage issues and overall performance upgrades. The Glen Lake cleanup continues. Director Fox had a meeting with a resident on site to address concerns. Basketball registrations are open, evaluations for fifth through eighth grade players are on Monday, November 1, and Wednesday, November 3. Times were posted on the Borough Facebook page.

#### **Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber had its most recent meeting on Tuesday, October 19. They have many great holiday events planned, which include, *Shop Small Saturday*, the sale of *Pitman Bucks* on November 27, *Ladies Shopping Night Out* on December 2, and the annual *Winter Village* to be held on Ballard Avenue this year on December 4.

#### **McCowan Memorial Library**

The library is excited to host its annual Children's Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

As always, I am available to answer any questions or concerns via email at [vanessa.james@pitman.org](mailto:vanessa.james@pitman.org) or by phone at 336-407-8604.

### Council President Blass

#### **Historic Preservation Commission**

The Historic Preservation Commission met on October 14 and heard four applications involving proposed alterations. Three were approved, one with a minor adjustment so that the railing met guidelines. The fourth application was denied without prejudice. Had the applicant been there the situation would have been solved.

### **Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee met last Thursday. The Committee approved the purchase of additional winter banners for the Borough's lamp posts. The EDC has obtained preliminary costs for an electric vehicle charging station. Once finalized this will be added to the group's proposed budget.

### **Public Works**

On Friday, October 15, the Water and Sewer Department had a crew repair a leak on Long Avenue.

The Borough is currently out of black trash cans. The replacements are being held up because of shipping delays.

### **Councilman Mazzola**

#### **Clean Communities**

This weekend we had three groups collaborate on a large project cleaning up Alcyon Lake, the surrounding parks, and the dam. The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce had kayakers (and one canoeing family) on the lake and pulled out 5-6 bags of trash mostly consisting of bottles and cans. They also pulled out a wooden stool and a basketball.

The Pitman High School Seniors and Freshmen, led by their advisor Council President Blass, took care of the parks and dam, and gathered 4-5 bags of trash and an old rusty bicycle in the creek across Holly Avenue.

Thank you to all the volunteers who organized and came out to clean up our community!

### **Finance & Administration**

Budget requests will be going out next week, one month earlier than prior years. This should lead to an earlier approved budget than we have previously seen. Thank you in advance to all department supervisors for helping to turn this around.

Clerk O'Donnell is busy closing out grants and submitting paperwork to verify safety inspections and employee training to keep us in compliance with TRICO JIF standards.

We are in the final stretch of updating the Employee Policy and Procedure Manual, which is required by the JIF to be done every two years.

The Borough's Election Board Workers have received training on the new voting machines and the electronic signature books to be used in this year's election to be held on November 2, 2021. Voting is from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Borough offices, services, and the Police Administration Office will be closed for the holiday. The Clerk's Office will be open for questions related to the election and voting. Please call 856-589-3522 for assistance if needed.

Councilman Weng

On October 4, the Gloucester County Police Awards Committee held its annual awards banquet. Chief Dan McAteer is honored to announce that the following officers were recognized for their efforts in various incidents, actions, and efforts:

**Medal of Honor & Life Saving with Valor:**

Detective Nick Barbetta and Patrol Officer Sam Hoffman (SWAT Assignment)

**Unit Citation:**

Detective Nick Barbetta and Investigator Eric Bailey (PPD Detective Bureau)

**Unit Citation with Community Service:**

Sgt. Chris Leach, P/O Peter Stefanopoulos and P/O Dominique Khoury (SRO Unit)

Cpl. EJ Parker and K-9 Ranger

Sgt. Jon Streater (Traffic Unit)

**Distinguished Service: (Separate Incidents)**

Corporal Ken Decker Jr. and P/O Dominique Khoury

Investigator Eric Bailey

P/O Sam Hoffman and P/O Peter Stefanopoulos

P/O Tyler Hagan

**K-9 Deployment:**

Corporal EJ Parker and K-9 Ranger

**Community Service Awards:**

Chief Dan McAteer, Deputy Chief Thomas Zander, Sgt. Andrew Carson, and Cpl. Marshall Pierson

**Last Call**

Retired Chief Jack McEnery was recognized on the “Last Call”. Chief McEnery died in 2020.

Councilwoman Rudley

**Volunteer Fair**

The Volunteer Fair was held on Friday evening in conjunction with the Fourth Friday event. We had twelve groups in attendance. Residents and visitors were able to obtain information about these various volunteer opportunities in a casual setting.

**Public Property**

Members of the Garden Club and the Environmental Commission met with me and our Shade Tree Commissioner on October 19, 2021, to discuss a solution to the yew bushes that are overgrown and are encroaching on the markers within the War Memorial in Ballard Park. We are in the process of selecting an appropriate replacement bush which will be easy to maintain, a



Motion to open to the public: Weng  
Time: 8:15 p.m.

Second: Rudley

No public comment.

Motion to close public comment: Weng  
Time: 8:15 p.m.

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\_\_\_\_\_

**New Business**

**Ordinance No. 11, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Ordinance No. 12, 2020 Establishing the Salaries and Wages for Employees of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, for the Year 2021 and Forward**

First Reading – Second Reading and Public Hearing on November 8, 2021

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Ordinance No. 12, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Appropriating the Sum of \$45,000.00 From the Fire Safety Trust Fund for the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Fire Safety Department**

First Reading – Second Reading and Public Hearing on November 8, 2021

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ordinance No. 13, 2021 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and the Acquisition of Various Pieces of Equipment in and for the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$940,500.00 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation**

**Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$895,500.00 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing**

First Reading – Second Reading and Public Hearing on November 8, 2021

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: No

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ordinance No. 14, 2021 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Equipment and Completion of Various Improvements to the Water and Sewer Utility System in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$205,000.00 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$205,000.00 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing**

First Reading – Second Reading and Public Hearing on November 8, 2021

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional New Business**

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. 154, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation and/or Refund of Taxes Due to the Property Owner Meeting the Requirements of a 100% Disabled Veteran as Set Forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and is Exempt From Paying Property Taxes – Block 158, Lot 18, 514 Crafton Avenue**

**Resolution No. 155, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Change Order No. 1 and Payment #3 to Paving Plus LLC in the Amount of \$31,428.01 for the FY 2019 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program Grant for the Resurfacing of Glen Lake Avenue, Seneca Avenue, and Adams Avenue**

**Resolution No. 156, 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: 141 West Avenue - \$429.00**

**Resolution No. 157, 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 Pest Control Services: 349 Boulevard Avenue - \$130.00**

Resolution No. 154, 2021 - Resolution No. 157, 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\_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Abstains to #50835; approves all other items

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Abstains to #50852; approves all other items

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Permit/Signage Applications**

**Event:** Santa & Holiday Display

Dates: November 8, 2021 – January 10, 2022

Location: Ballard Park

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Ronald Brown

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze\_\_\_\_\_

**Event:** Pitman Winter Village

Date and Time: December 4, 2021; 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park and Ballard Avenue



Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Kara Knauss

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo\_\_\_\_\_

**Event and Signage: Purple Ribbons**

Date and Time: November 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

Location: Broadway Lamp Posts

Sponsor: Epilepsy Awareness Month

Contact Person: Sarah Molle Jacobs

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo\_\_\_\_\_

**Raffle License Application**

**Event:** Off-Premises Raffle

Date and Time: December 4, 2021

Location: Alcyon Park

Sponsor: Pitman Athletic Association

Contact Person: Kerry Barrar

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo\_\_\_\_\_

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Time: 8:28 p.m.

**Eileen Salmon, 25 Cedar Avenue** – Ms. Salmon asked members of Council their opinion on the Gloucester County Rail Line (GCL) following the recent public information session and new literature distributed by the DRPA.

**Fitzpatrick:** He would rather see it run along Route 55 due to the changes they have made to

the plans, such as now having two sets of tracks.

**Mazzola:** Said that he felt the Environmental Impact Study was an early part of the process and that he was waiting for the Engineering Study to be released to form his full opinion on the train. It was too soon to fully understand what the actual planned impacts would be until that was done.

**Blass:** Reserved making an opinion until the engineering study is complete. Was originally in favor of Pitman having a stop in town as a method to slow the train down as it came through the Borough during the day.

**Rudley:** Is also waiting for the engineering study to be concluded. Was disappointed that the environmental study did not address the impact on our green areas. Said that she spoke to State Senator Madden last summer and was told that it would be too expensive to run the train down Route 55.

**Razze:** Originally voted for the stop in town to slow the train down and has concerns about potential environmental issues.

**James:** Mentioned that as a student in Wales, public transportation was the only option, and she became familiar with using that method to get around and thought that the train could be a viable alternative. Where originally, she was excited by the train, she is now skeptical about the train coming at all. She too is interested in seeing how the engineering study addresses the effect on green spaces.

**Weng:** Said that Pitman was the first town along the corridor to bring GCL to a meeting for their presentation. He is also skeptical that it is going to happen at all and is interested in seeing more of the engineering study.

**James:** Feels there should be a reassessment of the need for the train because of people's work activities being altered since the COVID epidemic had many people working from home and businesses making allowances for it to continue.

**Razze:** Is keeping an open mind on all aspects of the train, both pro and con.

**Courtney Milward, 129 Woodlyne Avenue** – Ms. Milward asked about the cost to install and insure a quiet zone in Pitman.

Councilwoman Rudley and Mayor Razze both said that the insurance cost is unknown at this time.

Ms. Milward asked if there will be another meeting soon and that brochures distributed by the DRPA say that the engineering study for the train line will be starting soon. Councilman Weng stated that there have been no changes to the plans since March 2021, and Mayor Razze said that

he will take specific questions residents have about the plans for the train to the DRPA for answers.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng                      Second: Rudley  
Time: 8:41 p.m.

**Miscellaneous**

Councilman Weng asked Borough Solicitor Krachun if he knew of other towns in Gloucester County that still require masks to be worn in their buildings. Solicitor Krachun said that he is only aware of West Deptford who just recently dropped the requirement. Councilman Weng asked for time in the November 8, 2021, Work Session for a discussion on the necessity of mandatory masks for members of the public who enter Borough Hall.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Blass    Second: James  
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator