

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 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 Razzo: Present  
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

**Special Presentation**

Summer Reading Program Participants

Cecilia Patterson  
Ben Patterson  
Julia Tortora  
Jolie Streater  
Jocelyn Streater  
Kendall Rudley

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021

Motion: Blass

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**

**Councilman Fitzpatrick**

**Combined Planning and Zoning Board**

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board met on September 20, 2021, where one application for the Historic Commission was approved. There will be a special meeting on October 4 at 8:00 p.m. to review

a variance application for a fence. The Zoning Officer inspected eighteen properties for permits and four properties for possible violations. Recommendations were made to Council for the appointment of members to serve on the Chicken Advisory Board.

A meeting was held which included the Borough Solicitor, the Borough Administrator, the Planning and Zoning Board Chairman and the Borough Tax Collector to discuss abandoned properties. It was decided that the Borough would try to assign tax liens to interested parties who could then foreclose, fix up the properties, and sell or rent them.

The Construction Office and Code Enforcement Officer are very busy with applications and complaints.

**Councilwoman Vanessa E. James**

2021 Liaison: Parks & Recreation, Public Events, Library Board, Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

**Best of Gloucester County Awards Ceremony**

Congratulations to all the Pitman business award winners at last week's Best of Gloucester County Awards presentation which took place in Ballard Park. Thanks to Mayor Razze, Mrs. O'Donnell, and Stacey Myers for putting on a wonderful presentation that did a great job showcasing all that our Uptown has to offer.

**Fall Craft Show**

Thanks to Lisa Morgey for organizing an outstanding Fall Craft Show, held on September 18, and thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it a success. Special thanks to the Pitman Police Department and Pitman Public Works Department who do such a tremendous job of making sure our town events run smoothly.

**Pitman Brews Cruise**

This Saturday, October 2, at 10:00 a.m. the Third Annual Brews Cruise will be held to benefit the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce. It is 25-mile bike ride through South Jersey starting at the Caffeinated Cyclist Bike Shop and ending with a celebration at Merryman's Pub, Human Village and Kelly Green Breweries in Pitman. Tickets can be purchased on the Uptown Pitman website at <https://checkout.square.site/buy/CLEH5QSMQ4X6UA6OMLX5V7FR>

**Witches of Pitman Shoppe Hop**

The Witches of Pitman Shoppe Hop will take place on Saturday, October 9 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Join us for a scary fun day in Uptown Pitman! Stroll through local businesses offering magical sales, spooky specialty items, and frightful food & beverage specials.

Wear your finest be-witching outfit for fun prizes throughout the day!

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**  
**Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee met on September 16, 2021, and welcomed a new member, Stacey Myers. The Committee discussed the upcoming Best of Gloucester County Awards event. They also began plans to update the current brochure.

**Public Works**

Since our last meeting the Highway Department

- Collected 127 tons of trash
- Collected thirty-four tons of recyclables
- Collected sixty-eight yards of brush
- Spent two hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes
- Spent fifty-three hours mowing and weed whacking
- Ran the street sweeper for four hours
- Dropped off a truck for yard debris to one resident and picked up the next day
- Completed about forty curbside inspections per week of recycling containers
- Removed the dead tree pots from along Broadway
- Cleaned up after Fall Craft Fair
- Repaired fence at Sixth Avenue

The Water and Sewer Department

- Performed eighteen water and sewer mark out requests
- Plunged out one sewer stoppage
- Performed routine well work (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples
- Read twelve meters for settlement
- Replaced two meter bodies
- Upgraded seven meter heads
- Sealed off a leak under East Avenue

The Water and Sewer Department had a crew out Wednesday night to repair a collapsed roadway caused by a broken terra cotta sewer main. They were there for several hours.

A crew was also called out on Sunday for a continuing leak at the end of East Holly Avenue.

Leaf collection will formally begin in mid-October, though crews have already been out when time permits.

**Councilman Mazzola**  
**Finance and Administration**

1. Two additional security cameras have been installed at Borough Hall; one for inside the Police Department and the other outside of the building looking toward the War Memorial in Ballard Park.
2. A representative from South Jersey Gas has come out on two occasions to meet with residents who need financial assistance for their utility bill. Further information on this program can be obtained by calling the Finance Office in Borough Hall.

3. Training is being provided by the NJ MEL for Designated Employer Representative for participation in the US Department of Transportation's Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is a secure online database that will give employers, State Driver Licensing Agencies, and State of New Jersey law enforcement personnel real-time access to important information about CDL driver drug and alcohol program violations, which will enhance safety on the nation's roadways. To date, the Borough Administrator and Public Works Manager have taken this training.
4. The Borough's online sale of unpaid 2020 taxes will take place on October 7. For information, please call the Borough Tax Collector at 589-3522.

### **Clean Communities**

We are entering fall cleanup season and we just had the Renaissance Youth Center complete a three hour cleanup where they cleaned three miles of roadway which included Broadway, East Avenue, W. Jersey Avenue and Theatre Avenue. They filled three large contractor bags with the litter taken from the sides of the roads and the sidewalks.

We also have projects coming up at Shertel Park, Sunset Auditorium, Alcyon Woods, and Alcyon Lake. If you are a non-profit organization and would like to organize a cleanup project, please reach out to me!

### **Councilman Matthew Weng**

#### **Police Department**

Chief McAteer recently attended the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police 2021 Training Conference on August 23 through August 26 in Atlantic City. He also attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police 2021 Virtual Training Conference. Both conferences provided highly valuable information.

As previously announced, the Police Department has been awarded a Body Worn Camera Reimbursement Grant for the sum of \$44,836.00. The PPD received the final registration paperwork last week. It is being prepared by Deputy Chief Zander and CFO Considine. Chief McAteer will have final oversight for the department. The grant will be dispersed in increments over the next few years. The PPD was the third Department in Gloucester County to institute Body Cameras and has been using them for the past five years.

On September 24, 2021, the entire department participated in a three hour training session from POAC on Autism Awareness and Police Response to Autistic Individuals. The training was exceptional, and it adds to the resources, knowledge, and ability that the PPD has in responding to calls for service.

Community Appreciation Night will be Wednesday evening September 29 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Ballard Park. We will also be recognizing Fire Prevention Week. Please come out and enjoy an evening that is bound to be fantastic!

### **Councilwoman Amy E. Rudley**

#### **Public Property**

Residents have been reporting various infestations of lantern flies. Our Shade Tree Commissioner fully supports removing invasive trees from public property. Therefore, where there is an infestation on a Tree of Heaven plant, we are coordinating removal. The type of removal depends on the size of the invasive tree.

### **Environmental Commission**

The Environmental Commission is working on a lantern fly egg removal day and a series of contests. They plan to have a table at Community Appreciation Night with some information to help with accurate identification.

Also, they will be planting some additional pollinators to supplement those planted earlier this year in Alcyon Park under the Outlook. Anyone who wants to get more involved, please reach out.

### **Volunteer Fair**

In prior years, Councilwoman James and I have held the Volunteer Fair in January, to kick off the year of volunteerism. Due to COVID-19, we postponed this year's event. We will be holding the Volunteer Fair in conjunction with the Chamber's Fourth Friday celebration in October. They have graciously given us the use of Theatre Avenue to assemble the groups. If anyone is involved in a non-profit or a Borough organization that needs some volunteer power, please let me know and we will get you set up for the event. It will be on October 22, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### **Memorabilia Committee**

The Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. The usual meeting place is the Museum, but we have been meeting in the Grove Auditorium to avoid virus concerns.

### **Yard Sale Day**

There were quite a few last minute (and day of) additions and deletions from the Borough-wide Yard Sale day this year. If anyone has any ideas for streamlining this process a bit, please feel free to reach out. Overall, it appears to have been a success.

### **Haunted Tales of Pitman**

The Haunted Tales of Pitman will be a self-guided walking tour this year, with audio recorded stories submitted by the businesses. I hope to have the first stories "available" on October 9, 2021, in conjunction with the Witches' Day Out shopping event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. For the stories, the vision is that you will simply access them via the Chamber's website and listen to them either on location or from anywhere you like, at your convenience. Many businesses plan to decorate or coordinate for the occasion.

### **Police Department POAC Training**

I would like to express my most sincere thank you to the Pitman Police Department and to Fire Chief Ryan Pierson for their attendance and participation in the POAC training for first responders. When I had Public Safety as a Council Department it was a goal of mine to ensure that our officers undergo training for interacting with neuro-atypical and Autistic individuals. This is for the safety of the officers, as much as for the safety of those members of the public with neurological conditions. I was also very glad to be invited to take the training myself. I learned a few extremely valuable lessons. First, when encountering an emergency with a neuro-atypical individual, be mindful that those who are on the higher functioning end of the continuum often hide. This is counter-intuitive in many situations, given the high intelligence of the individuals. Therefore, in a fire, the instinct is often to hide in a closet or under a blanket until it is safe. Second, bodies of water should be immediately checked when an Autistic child or adult goes missing. Fifty percent of Autistic individuals will go missing at some point in their lives and ninety percent of deaths of Autistic individuals under the age of fourteen are due to drowning. This

organization recommends searching all bodies of water by distance using concentric circles from the point of last known location, first. There were countless other important take-aways, but for the public, I think it is incumbent upon me to share these two here in my Council report. Thank you to all attendees for being so engaged, as well. I thought the training was excellent.

**Reading Challenge**

Last, and certainly not least, congratulations to the children who completed the twenty minutes per day challenge for the month of August 2021. They were awarded tonight with acknowledgement by Mayor and Council, as well as a \$5.00 gift certificate to Words Matter Bookstore, courtesy of the bookstore.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or issues you may have. My cell remains 609-214-6342 and my e-mail is [amy.rudley@pitman.org](mailto:amy.rudley@pitman.org).

**New Business**

**Ordinance No. 9, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter VII, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 7-12, Parking Time Limited on Certain Streets, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman**

First Reading – Second Reading/Public Hearing: October 25, 2021

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

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

**Ordinance No. 10, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter VII, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 7-20, Stop Intersections, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman**

First Reading – Second Reading/Public Hearing: October 25, 2021

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

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. 132, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Cancellation/Refund of Real Estate Taxes of a 100% Disabled Veteran as Set Forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and is Exempt From Paying 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 Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 133, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Submission of a Grant Application and Execution of a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2022 Safe Routes to School Project**

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 Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 134, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety: SFY 21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program**

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

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. 135, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Payment No. 1 to the Contract with Lexa Concrete, LLC for the FY 2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program Grant Reconstruction of Tuohy Avenue Project**

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 Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 136, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for Vegetative Waste Disposal to Peach Country Tractor, Inc. of Mullica Hill, NJ**

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 Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 137, 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 – 502 Highland Terrace**

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. 138, 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. 139, 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 the Performance of Board-up Services for 202 Embury Avenue, Block 27 Lot 1 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey**

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. 140, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Curfew Within the Borough of Pitman for the Celebration of Halloween and Associated Activities Related to Halloween**

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. 141, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Declaring an Emergency for Purposes of Awarding Contract for Broadway Sewer Repairs in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey**

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes



Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Weng: Yes

**Payment of Bills**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Permit Applications**

**Event:** Town Hall Meeting

Date and Time: October 13, 2021; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium

Sponsor: Pitman Republican Executive Committee

Contact Person: Barry Owen

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:** Block Party

Date and Time: October 24, 2021; 2:00 p.m.

Location: South Fernwood Avenue between E. Holly and Pitman Avenues

Sponsor: Neighborhood Party

Contact Person: Andrew Bittner

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved contingent upon receiving a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.**

**Event:** Halloween Parade

Date and Time: Saturday, October 30, 2021; 4:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park

Sponsor: Friends of the McCowan Memorial Library

Contact Person: Andrew Coldren

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: James  
Time: 8:28 p.m.

Second: Blass

**Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue** – Mr. Madison stated that he feels that to limit the proposed timed parking area on S. Broadway until 8:00 p.m. daily would have a negative impact on Broadway Theatre patrons.

Motion to close the public portion: James  
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Second: Blass

**Adjournment**

Motion: Rudley  
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Second: Weng

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator