

BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
DECEMBER 13, 2021

**Call to Order**

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**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

**Discussion**

Motion to Open Discussion: Blass  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Second: Rudley

**Youth Council Member Appointments**

Council President Blass reported that eight applications were received from Borough middle and high school students for a position on the newly created Borough Youth Council. Council President Blass recommended seven members be appointed to the Council with the remaining one applicant to be appointed as an alternate. The group would meet on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Councilman Weng said that he is not in favor of having one alternate, and Councilman Mazzola agreed. Mayor Razzo pointed out that since the Youth Council is a program run by the Parks and Recreation Department, allowances could be made to the structure of the membership annually based on the number of applications received. He suggested that the bylaws be amended to allow for a case by case determination such as, that the number of members and alternates be determined in such a way that there would be no alternates if there were less than ten applicants, or if there are ten or more applicants, seven Council members would be appointed with the remaining applicants appointed as alternates, not to exceed five alternates.

**Motion** by Councilman Weng to amend the Youth Council bylaws to address appointments to Youth Council on a case by case basis to allow additional members with no alternates if there are nine or less applicants, or if there are ten or more applicants there will be seven appointments to Youth Council with the additional applicants appointed as alternate members, not to exceed five alternate members.

Second: Mazzola

**Roll Call:**

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Abstain  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Brick Removal and Repair at Alcyon Park**

Councilwoman James submitted a proposal made by the Recreation Commission to remove the personalized bricks around the snack stand at Alcyon Lake Park and replace the area with concrete. The bricks would be offered for return to the sponsors, and sponsors would be recognized on a plaque to be mounted in a highly visible area of the park. Mayor Razzo stated that there are no records of the donors when the bricks were sold over twenty years ago, and that he does not recall that anything was stated or implied about the bricks being maintained in place forever.

**Bench Replacement Policy**

Councilwoman James stated that many of the donated benches in Borough parks are in disrepair. Most of the benches were purchased in honor of someone with the donor paying approximately \$75.00 for the concrete base and wooden seat and back. The donor is also responsible for the memorial plaque attached to the bench.

Councilwoman James said that the Recreation Commission would like to have a contractual agreement put in place guaranteeing that minor repairs needed within two years of the purchase of a bench would be provided by the Borough Parks and Recreation Department at no cost to the donor. At the conclusion of the two years, the donor of the bench would be responsible for the upkeep. The goal of having an Agreement in place is to formalize the process of purchasing and donating the benches and to have contact information on file for the sponsors when repairs or removal is needed.

**Miscellaneous**

**Outdoor Tables in Front of Restaurants**

Mayor Razzo said that Borough Ordinance states that the outside tables in front of restaurants in the Borough are supposed to be taken in at the close of business nightly. He said that he has been contacted by several owners of restaurants stating that there is no room inside to store the tables and chairs, and that many of the dining sets are too heavy to be moved easily. Mayor Razzo asked Council’s opinion on amending the ordinance to allow the tables and chairs to remain outside overnight, but with the requirement that umbrellas are to be stored inside. Mayor Razzo asked members of Council to review the ordinance for possible amendment in the future.

Motion to close discussion: Blass  
Time: 7:20 p.m.

Second: Rudley

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Weng  
Time: 7:20 p.m.

Second: James

**Jason James, 91 Circle Avenue** – Mr. James suggested that removing the personalized bricks from Alcyon Lake Park could present an opportunity to raise funds to address other issues or upgrades needed in that area.

**Judy Walker, 503 Hudson Avenue** – Ms. Walker asked the purpose of forming the Youth Council and suggested that additional positions could be created for other jobs in the Borough that additional kids could fill.

**David Hoh, 101 Colonial Avenue** – Mr. Hoh suggested that the Borough consider livestreaming the Council meetings in the future.

**Sandy Keller, 139 West Avenue** – Ms. Keller agreed with Mr. Hoh that there is a great need to livestream Council meetings in the Borough.

Motion to close public portion: Weng  
Time: 7:25 p.m.

Second: James

**Miscellaneous**

Borough Solicitor Krachun suggested that Council should enter into a Closed Meeting to discuss a proposal received by the Borough that, if accepted, could cause potential litigation to be brought against the Borough.

**Resolution No. 183, 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 shall be: **Potential Litigation**

Motion: Blass

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Weng  
Time: 7:26 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Motion to return to an open meeting: Weng  
Time: 7:34 p.m.

Second: James

No official action was taken by Council upon returning to an open meeting as a result of discussion in the closed meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

Borough Clerk O'Donnell announced that the bid packets are available to be picked up by business owners interested in advertising on the Borough's information sign at Delsea Drive and E. Holly Avenue. The bid opening is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on January 4, 2022.

Mayor Razzo asked questions about the Resolution and Agreement on the Formal Meeting Agenda adding the municipalities of West Deptford and National Park to the Mantua Joint Municipal Court, along with current members Pitman, Wenonah, Woodbury Heights, and Mantua.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Blass

Second: Rudley

Time: 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator