

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2021

Call to Order

Time: 6:30 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

CFO Considine: Present; left meeting at 6:50 pm

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present

Councilman Mazzola: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present; arrived 7:00 pm

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Blass

Second: Mazzola

Time: 6:31 p.m.

Municipal Budget Preparation 2021

Council President Blass presented the proposed budget for the Department of Public Works, which includes the Highway Division and the Water and Sewer Division. As presented, the combined budget shows an increase of \$180,000 over the 2020 budget for both divisions. A large increase in the salary allocation reflects a proposed increase of 3% for the non-contractual employees, as well as education rewards for Water and Sewer license endorsements, and an additional \$15,000 for training a new employee for the office.

In addition, trash tipping fees are expected to increase approximately 3%, and adjustments were made to anticipate the cost of leaf and brush disposal as well as to cover the cost of recycling which increased by \$43,000 in 2020.

In response to Councilman Mazzola, Council President Blass stated that the new mechanic allows them to be more proactive with repairs and maintenance of the vehicles by doing repairs in-house that have been contracted out in the past. Also, by performing preventive maintenance, it is anticipated that it will cut down on repairs in the long term.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that the new budget reflects a seven percent overall increase over the 2020 budget. Council President Blass stated that some of the fees had to be estimated due to unknown variables such as the cost to dispose of recyclables, which fluctuates with the market. He said that the amount for the fees can be adjusted later when we receive more information from the contractors on their 2021 prices.

Council President Blass reviewed the Five Year Spending Plan submitted by the Public Works Manager for equipment and purchases from surplus or bonding. Many of the larger purchases are for vehicles that are operating well beyond their life expectancy and create large repair bills due to their age and the cost of parts if even available. Councilman Mazzola stated that he felt it is a concise and well-spaced out plan.

CFO Considine left the meeting at the conclusion of the budget discussion.

Potential Sale of Liquor License

Council President Blass stated that he requested the potential sale of an additional liquor license to be placed on the agenda to poll Council to determine their interest in selling one or potentially two liquor licenses soon.

Councilman Weng said that he feels that the licenses should be sold sooner rather than later. He predicts that the Census Count will show a decrease in our population in such a way that the Borough will lose the ability to have three licenses available. He said that selling a liquor license is a lengthy process and that the count as of July 1, 2019 estimated Pitman's population to be just over 8000 people. Council President Blass agreed that it was time to start considering a sale this year.

Borough Solicitor Krachun stated that the location of the license may be restricted by Council by geographic space or zone, however the restriction cannot be too narrow.

Council President Blass reminded Councilmembers that the former Sony property is in a redevelopment zone, and that there has been recent interest from investors in that property as well as in the Armory property. He asked to poll Council on how to proceed; by selling one or two licenses?

Council poll:

Council President Blass: 2

Councilman Fitzpatrick: 1, but the timing of the Census should be considered.

Councilwoman James: 2, but with the same restrictions as the first license.

Councilman Mazzola: 2, with the same qualifications as the last one sold.

Councilman Weng: 2

Councilman Blass asked the Solicitor to prepare a draft resolution for the sale of two liquor licenses for the January 25, 2021 meeting.

Motion to close discussion: Blass
Time: 7:07 p.m.

Second: Weng

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Weng
Time: 7:07 p.m.

Second: James

Steve Roth, 15 Mansfield Avenue – Mr. Roth stated that the Sony project hasn't been in the news and asked what the plans for the property are.

Mayor Razzo responded that a developer has been working with the owner to develop the property.

Councilman Fitzpatrick said that nothing is going on there at this time.

Motion to close public portion: Weng
Time: 7:10 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Adjournment

Motion: Blass
Time: 7:10 p.m.

Second: James

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator