

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 12, 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	Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present
Councilwoman James: Present	Councilman Mazzola: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Present	Councilman Weng: Present
Mayor Razze: Present	Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present
Exec. Dir. TRICO JIF Paul Forlenza: Present	Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Blass	Second: Rudley
----------------------------------	----------------

Time: 7:01 p.m.

TRICO JIF Membership Renewal

Paul Forlenza, Executive Director of the Tri-County Joint Insurance Fund explained that it is time for the Borough to re-affirm their thirty-year membership with the TRICO JIF. The new three year period will begin on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Forlenza identified some new challenges going forward for the JIF, two of which were mandated by changes to State of New Jersey Statutes or new directives. The third challenge is the current “hard” insurance market.

In response to these challenges the JIF and New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL) have put in place reporting and claims management protocols to manage the potential costs of the claims. They have also developed training modules for elected officials and municipal employees and model policies and procedures that will help mitigate these types of claims in the future.

Mr. Forlenza also reviewed the financial strength of the Fund which has resulted in dividends and discounts to members as well as the Risk Management and Safety Programs provided to members. The amount of surplus returned to the Borough in 2020 was \$70,931.00 making the total surplus figure over the past thirty years \$1,145,032.00.

The Borough was commended on our six year Loss Ratio percentage, our Lost Time Accident Frequency, and Lost Opportunity Days, which is the utilization of transitional duty for injured employees.

Miscellaneous

Banner Ordinance

Councilman Weng asked the Borough Solicitor at the June 28, 2021, meeting to investigate the idea of the Borough having an ordinance that would provide guidelines for hanging banners and flags on Borough-owned light fixtures. Mr. Krachun said that his discussions with other municipalities has shown that most towns hang their own banners and that it was his opinion that it should be the practice that the Borough should follow as their policy. Councilman Fitzpatrick asked if the Borough's past practices has set a precedent for how approval would be given in the future. Solicitor Krachun said that past practices do set a precedent unless a specific policy is placed in effect by the Borough.

Public Referendum Question on Parking

Councilman Weng said that he and Councilman Fitzpatrick will meet prior to the July 26 Work Session Meeting for discussion on the wording to be used on the public question pertaining to amending the overnight parking ordinance in the Borough.

Agenda Additions

Council President Blass and the Borough Clerk requested the addition of Resolution No. 100, 2021 and Resolution No. 101, 2021 to the Formal Meeting Agenda tonight.

Library Reading Program

Councilwoman Rudley suggested the formation of a reading program to be sponsored by Borough Council for Borough children. Children completing the program which documents reading time will be acknowledged at a Council Meeting at the conclusion of the program in September.

Solar Panels on 400 N. Woodbury Road

A brief discussion took place pertaining to a permit submitted to the Borough's Construction Office by the owners of the property located at 400 N. Woodbury Road for the installation of solar panels that hopefully signal future development of the property.

Motion to close discussion: Blass

Second: Rudley

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: James

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney asked how the Pop-up Park for dogs can be permitted when the park has signs prohibiting pets. He feels it should not be permitted as the park is being used widely by people eating at the picnic tables and the library holding many of its programs outside.

Judy Walker, 503 Hudson Avenue – Ms. Walker asked if the solar panel installation at 400 N. Woodbury Road would make it more difficult to sell it in the future.

Bill Ritzler, 517 N. Broadway – Mr. Ritzler asked if there could be a problem with installing the solar panels if it is a business. Mayor Razze said that it did not matter.

Motion to close public portion: Weng
Time: 7:55 p.m.

Second: James

Adjournment

Motion: Weng
Time: 7:55 p.m.

Second: James

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator