

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 26, 2021
7:00 P.M.

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: Absent
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Discussion

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

Second: Mazzola

Bulk Trash Removal

Council President Blass said that there has been some question on what to do about bulk trash that is put out by residents during non-collection weeks. Currently, to keep the Borough looking clean, the Public Works Department has been collecting it regardless of when it is placed out. Councilwoman Rudley stated her opinion that the ordinance in place should be enforced, and Councilman Weng wondered if bulk trash collection could be expanded to twice per month. Discussion followed among members of Council with the consensus being that the ordinance would be enforced as written.

Amending Ordinance to Smoke-Free Public Places

Councilwoman Rudley proposed the addition of Ordinance No. 8, 2021 to tonight's Agenda. This ordinance repeals and replaces Chapter 3, entitled Police Regulations, Section 38, Smoke-Free Public Places, to define smoking as the burning of, inhaling from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, e-cigarette, pipe, or electronic or battery smoking device, or other paraphernalia that can be used to consume tobacco, e-liquid, cannabis, marijuana, marijuana products, or a tobacco-like substance. Tobacco products is amended to include all smokeless tobacco, including but not limited to chewing tobacco, loose leaf tobacco, tobacco pellets, plug tobacco, twist, or rope tobacco, dipping tobacco, and dissolvable tobacco.

125 Tenth Avenue

Councilman Fitzpatrick opened discussion on the vacant lot located on Block 22 Lot 38 in the Grove, known as 125 Tenth Avenue. The home on this property was demolished by the Borough several years ago when it was deemed to be a hazard due to its condition and that it was leaning toward the neighboring home. At that time, multiple efforts were made to contact the owners without success, and the lot presently has multiple liens attached for taxes and the cost of the demolition.

Motion was made by Councilman Fitzpatrick to authorize Borough Solicitor Scaffidi to begin the process for the Borough to foreclose on the property located at 125 Tenth Avenue, Block 22 Lot 38, and place it for sale by public auction.

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Raze: Absent

150th Anniversary Celebration of the Pitman Grove Camp Meetings

Councilwoman Rudley reported that plans are underway for the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Camp Meetings which is set for August 7, 2021. An informational banner will be hung in Ballard Park soon.

Motion to close discussion: Mazzola

Second: Rudley

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the Public: Weng

Second: James

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Beth McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway – Regarding bulk collection, Ms. McIlvaine suggested that residents be permitted to call Public Works to request collection of large items.

Scott Anderson, 410 Andbro Drive – Referring to Ordinance No. 6, 2021, Mr. Anderson said that he has been contacted by several potential tenants interested in renting space for growing and processing cannabis in the Andbro complex. He said that he feels more time is needed for the Borough to better assess the situation before making the decision to not permit cannabis production or sales in the Borough. Councilman Weng explained that the Borough has the option to amend or repeal the ordinance in the future when more information and guidelines are obtained from the State of New Jersey.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen stated that the public information signs that he installed in Ballard Park at the Edward J. Campbell Jr. War Memorial came about because of two years of frustration from trying to keep the area clean and protected. He agreed that more appropriate and permanent signage is needed to keep people from walking through the garden, throwing stones, coins, and mulch into the fountain, and generally not being respectful of the area and its' intended purpose.

Councilwoman James said that an Event Permit for signage should have been submitted to Council prior to installing the signs in the park, and that approval from the Historic Commission would be required for a permanent sign. She suggested that in the meantime, several signs could be installed temporarily until a permanent sign is approved and commissioned.

Councilwoman Rudley suggested that the McCowan Memorial Library could present a program for children teaching them about the Memorial, its significance to the Borough, and why it should be respected. Councilwoman James suggested that such a program could be presented at a future Pop-up Park event to educate children.

Jim Pierpont, 23 Crafton Avenue – Mr. Pierpont shared his personal feelings about the Memorial and the meaning that it has for him. He said that he generally does not like yard signs but agrees that they

often fill a need. He said that he feels that any signage added to the area should be used to educate and remind visitors of the purpose and meaning of the Memorial.

Ben Johnson, 83 Carver Avenue, Lindenwold – Mr. Johnson suggested that producing the signage for the Memorial would be a good project for a Boy Scout who needs a service project for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – In referring to bulk trash, Mr. Fortney said that many people often put it out too early as is seen on weekends. Mr. Fortney said that residents need to be educated and reminded often about what is and is not recyclable. He stated that most people will follow directions.

Beth McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway – Ms. McIlvaine agreed with the previous speakers that the Memorial should be a place to reflect and that it should be respected as a very important part of Pitman history. She said that she would like to see signage that is tasteful installed at the Memorial.

Mike Grillo, 155 West Avenue – Mr. Grillo suggested that the signs at the Memorial could be like the signs that are put in Ballard Park before the parades.

David Hoh, 101 Colonial Avenue – Mr. Hoh expressed his concern for the safety of the students who attend Pitman High School if the Glassboro-Camden Line comes through the Borough. He said that many of the students walk down Cyrus Avenue and cross the tracks creating what could be a dangerous situation if numerous trains come through as is planned. He suggested the construction of an overpass for crossing the tracks and asked if any safety plans for this situation have been discussed.

Motion to close public portion: Weng
Time: 7:40 p.m.

Second: James

Miscellaneous

Ordinance No. 8, 2021 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Repealing and Replacing Chapter 3, Police Regulations, Section 38, Smoke-Free Public Places, of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo: Absent

Adjournment

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Time: 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

