

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MAY 10, 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: 7:03 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Proposed Committee to Discuss Cannabis Ordinance

Councilman Weng suggested that a committee be formed which would include Borough Planner Tim Kernan to create an ordinance for the sale and/or cultivation of cannabis in the Borough. Borough Solicitor Krachun suggested that the committee discuss conditional use within certain zones for the sale of cannabis and the various types of licenses that the Borough would be willing to issue. Mr. Krachun stated that in speaking with Mr. Kernan, he learned that the members of the Combined Planning and Zoning Board recommend prohibiting sales for the time being.

Councilman Fitzpatrick said that he recommends a public referendum for Pitman residents on the question of licensing in Pitman, and Councilwoman James said that she feels it makes sense to have further discussion on the topic, and Mayor Razzo agreed.

Councilman Weng said that he would like to see marijuana use added to the ordinance banning smoking on Borough property as a prohibited substance.

The committee membership will be coordinated by Solicitor Krachun to meet some time during the week of May 17, 2021.

Miscellaneous

Backyard Chicken Pilot Program

Solicitor Krachun said that as a follow-up to prior discussion he will amend the ordinance governing the Backyard Chicken Pilot Program to include additional licenses being approved by Council rather than by the Chicken Advisory Board as it was originally noted in the ordinance.

Handicapped Parking

Mayor Razzo said that he received a letter from a resident of Villa Avenue requesting that a designated handicapped parking spot be placed in front of his home. The issue he is having is that there are no available parking spaces as all on-street parking is being utilized by the residents living along Broadway in that area, leaving no available on-street parking on Villa Avenue.

Councilman Weng stated that the Police Department designates the handicapped parking spots in the Borough. He will take the resident’s request to Chief McAteer for consideration.

Camp Meeting Anniversary Celebration

Councilwoman Rudley reported that the committee working on the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Pitman Camp Meetings has invited all churches in Pitman to have a service in the Grove Auditorium on a weekend in the summer months leading up to the final celebration on August 7, 2021. On that day, the Pitman Historic Museum will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The Hobo Band, who are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year, will provide a concert that evening.

Fourth of July Parade

Mayor Razzo announced that the theme of this years’ Fourth of July Parade is **“150th Anniversary of Camp Meeting”**. The Grand Marshal of the parade will be announced at the regular meeting of Borough Council to be held on May 24, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

Motion to close discussion: Blass
Time: 7:18 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Weng
Time: 7:18 p.m.

Second: James

Courtney Milward, 129 Woodland Avenue – Ms. Milward asked if the cannabis committee meetings will be open to the public, and Mayor Razzo replied that they will be open meetings. Ms. Milward went on to state that the medical tax rate of 4% will be in effect until the end of 2021. In 2022 the medical marijuana rate falls to 2%, then is phased out. She asked if the tax revenue is totally phased out, what effect would it have on the revenue to the Borough. In respect to the cultivating licenses, Ms. Milward said that there will only be thirty-seven licenses available for the entire state.

Mayor Razzo asked Solicitor Krachun to request Borough Planner Tim Kernan to research these questions for the Borough.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney said that he noticed that the gazebo in Shertel Park is leaning. Mayor Razzo said that the Pitman Women’s Club has called in a contractor who has said that the gazebo is structurally sound but is in need of some upkeep. The members of the Women’s Club will have the gazebo repaired.

Mr. Fortney said that the outside tables present a problem when it comes to watering the hanging baskets along Broadway. He suggested that the tables be moved or some other action be taken to provide access to the baskets.

Councilwoman Rudley suggested that perhaps the businesses could water the flowers in front of their shops. Mayor Razzo said that he will coordinate that discussion.

Mr. Fortney concluded that there is another water leak in the irrigation system for the garden on First Avenue.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen asked what guidance the State is providing for the pending state aid being provided to municipalities for COVID relief. He said that he feels that this will prove to be just like the Cannabis Regulatory Commission, where it will not be put in place within six months as planned. Mr. Owen stated his opinion that cannabis sales and cultivation will not bring a lot of revenue to the Borough. He suggested that everyone should re-read the November ballot public question, saying that is very vague, and there has not been clear direction from the State.

Motion to close public portion: James
Time: 7:34 p.m.

Second: Weng

Adjournment

Motion: Blass
Time: 7:34 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator