

BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 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 Razze: Present  
CFO Steve Considine: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present  
Councilman Mazzola: Present  
Councilman Weng: Present  
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present  
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

**Discussion**

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

Second: Rudley

**Capital Purchases**

Councilman Mazzola reported that Borough Fire Safety Officer Ryan Pierson has requested the purchase of a vehicle in 2021 to be paid for from the 2022 budget for the Fire Safety Office. He anticipates the cost of the SUV to be approximately \$45,000.00. Following additional discussion, Council agreed to bond for the following purchases in 2021:

Public Works:

F350 4X4 Pickup with Plow \$40,562.00  
Mid-range Dump truck with Plow Spreader \$120,197.00  
Hook Lift/Leaf Machine \$290,000.00  
29 Yard Rear Loader Trash Truck/Tipper Body \$263,321.00  
Rehab Grinder \$28,469.60

Water/Sewer:

F350 4X4 Utility Body with Plow \$48,124.32

Police Department:

Morpho-Track Fingerprint System \$25,000.00  
Patrol Vehicle \$40,500.00

The items to be bonded will total approximately \$857,000.00. CFO Considine said that for these purchases the Borough will be using BANS, which is short term financing. The BANS renew annually for five years until the purchases are paid off.

**Motion to approve the purchase of items listed above using BANS:** Mazzola

**Second:** Rudley

**Roll Call:**

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: No  
Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razzo: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Weng: Yes

**Water Bill Relief**

Council President Blass addressed the request of the owner of the property located at 55-57 N. Oak Avenue, Block 200 Lot 4 in the Borough, for a review of a high second quarter water and sewer bill. A large amount of water was used outside of the house during construction and did not enter the sewer system. Based on information gathered from the Data Log Report for the period of May 19, 2021, through August 23, 2021, it was determined that there were periods of time when there was a continuous flow of water through the water meter of the property. Based on the findings in the report, and the recorded amount of water used during those periods, it was determined by the Public Works Manager that a credit of \$279.51 was appropriate.

**Motion to approve a \$279.51 credit to the second quarter 2021 sewer bill for the property located at 55-57 N. Oak Avenue, Block 200 Lot 4 in the Borough of Pitman:** Blass

**Second:** Mazzola

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**Installation of Fencing Around Edward J. Campbell War Memorial**

Mayor Razzo asked for a discussion among Council members regarding the proposal from the Garden Club to remove shrubbery and install fencing around the Edward J. Campbell War Memorial in Ballard Park. The reason for the removal is that irrigation to the plantings at the memorial is blocked by the large evergreens.

James Fortney, Chairman of the Garden Club, stated that the evergreens are overgrown to the point where there is no room behind the memorial markers for the display of American flags, or for the water from the sprinkler system to reach the annuals that are planted there each year. In response to a question from Councilman Weng, Mr. Fortney said that he has tried without success to contact members of the VFW for their opinion on the installation of the fence. Mayor Razzo said that he would like to have input from the VFW on the proposal and Councilman Weng said that he is not in support of the total removal of the shrubs. Councilwoman Rudley said that the Shade Tree Commissioner is also not in favor of a total removal, and instead suggests cutting back the shrubbery to a more manageable size. Mr. Fortney said that to do that would make the shrubs unsightly and it could possibly take up to two years for the greenery to return.

In conclusion, Mayor Razzo suggested that there be a meeting with Mr. Fortney, the Shade Tree Commissioner, and a representative from the VFW to discuss the removal of the shrubs.

**Remove No Parking Area on Wildwood Avenue at Presbyterian Church**

**Add 30 min. Parking on Broadway in front of Broadway Bakery**

**Add Three Stop Signs: Hudson/Albert; Northeast/East; Glen Lake /Longmere**

Councilman Weng reviewed the request for a timed parking spot in front of the Broadway Bakery and the addition of three stop signs at various intersections in the Borough. Pitman Police Chief McAteer said that all were requested by residents, investigated by the Police Department, and deemed to be needed. Councilman Weng suggested the addition of a stop sign at Alcyon Boulevard and Snyder Avenue to the list of proposed sites.

Mayor Razze recognized Christine Mastrocola, owner of Broadway Bakery, who was in attendance. Ms. Mastrocola suggested that a thirty minute limit for the parking spot may be too long. She suggested that fifteen minutes may be enough time needed.

Discussion followed on the request from the Board of Trustees of the Pitman Presbyterian Church to have a portion of the “No Parking” area removed on a section of the curb from the driveway to Broadway on Wildwood Avenue. Chief McAteer said that he will have the request investigated by the Police Department for feasibility.

**Plans for Grove Auditorium**

Council President Blass reviewed plans for the next phase of the rehabilitation of the Grove Auditorium. In addition to the ADA compliant parking area, sidewalk, and handicapped accessible entrance, overhead coiling grills are proposed to cover the side entryways, replacing the lattice that is there now. Also proposed are frameless glass doors and panels at the front entrance of the Auditorium. These renovations will be presented at the upcoming Historic Commission meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

**Motion** was made by Councilwoman James to amend the Event Permit Application approved by Council for Community Appreciation Day to be held at Alcyon Park on September 29, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., to be held at Ballard Park on the same date and time.

**Second:** Weng

**Roll Call:**

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Motion** was made by Councilwoman James to approve the use of Council Chambers for the monthly meetings of the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce on the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

**Second:** Weng

**Roll Call:**

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Motion** was made by Council President Blass to approve the installation of *Welcome to Pitman* signs at the triangle where W. Holly Avenue and Cedar Avenue intersect, and on Delsea Drive on the former Armory property, pending the approval of the Pitman Police Department on placement.

**Second:** Rudley

**Roll Call:**

Council President Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman James: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Razze: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Motion to close discussion: Blass  
Time: 7:52 p.m.

Second: Rudley

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: James

Time: 7:52 p.m.

**Beth Portocalis, 301 Washington Avenue** – Ms. Portocalis thanked Council and Chief McAteer for considering the timed parking in front of the Broadway Bakery. She said that she hoped that the suggestion of fifteen minutes is considered over the proposed thirty minutes and suggested that the restricted parking could be in effect from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. to allow longer term parking for the businesses open in the evening.

**Merrie Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue** – Ms. Owen said that much of the parking on Broadway is being taken by business owners and their employees, leaving limited parking for shoppers.

Mayor Razze said that he will seek assistance from the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce and the Police Department for greater enforcement.

**Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue** – Mr. Fortney asked for volunteers to help the Garden Club with watering the hanging baskets along Broadway until they are removed in October.

**Scott Anderson, 430 Andbro Drive** – Mr. Anderson said that he attended the meeting in Pitman when the cannabis ordinance was discussed and acted on by Borough Council. Since then, regulations from the State of New Jersey have been published. Mr. Anderson wondered if the Borough is considering changing the ordinance to permit growing of marijuana in the Borough. He stated that he has had interest from people seeking property for growing and production of cannabis products.

Mayor Razze said that he would like for Council to wait until all State regulations are in place before amending the Borough Ordinance. Mayor Razze said that he would also suggest to the Borough Solicitor to have the Cannabis Review Committee meet and discuss the new regulations and the potential impact they may have on the Borough. He said that he would let Mr. Anderson know when that meeting will be held. Mr. Anderson provided his email address [wscottanderson3@icloud.com](mailto:wscottanderson3@icloud.com)

Mr. Anderson said that he would seek conditional approval which would then lead to final approval after 120 days.

**Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue** – Mr. Madison asked for an update on when Simpson and Edsam Avenues will be repaved.

Motion to close public portion: Weng  
Time: 7:05 p.m.

Second: James

**Adjournment**

Motion: Weng  
Time: 7:05 p.m.

Second: James

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator