

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27, 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: 7:01 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Capital Purchases: Eighth Avenue and Magnolia Avenue

Council President Blass proposed the addition of two projects to be added to the list of projects/purchases funded by using surplus or BANS. The first project is to correct the drainage issue on Eighth Avenue, and the other is to address the water discoloration issue in the last block of Magnolia Avenue.

Council agreed that the first phase of the Magnolia Avenue project which is covered in the Base Bid (\$76,682.00) description of the Engineer's Cost Estimate and the Eighth Avenue Drainage Project will be added. The Engineer's estimate of both projects has been provided, but the Borough is awaiting the cost estimate for the design, inspection, and project management costs from the Borough Engineer. When received, these costs will be added to the project cost and the total amount will be added to the amount to be bonded by the Borough.

Chicken Advisory Board

Councilman Fitzpatrick proposed the names of five individuals to be appointed to the Backyard Chicken Advisory Board for the Borough of Pitman. They are Noah Burrows, Gabrielle Bowen, Amy Stockl, Jim Aspras, and Megan Fields. The Chairman will be Noah Burrows, who will serve a two year term, and Gabrielle Bowen is the member who does not own chickens. In response to Mayor Razzo, Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that all members of the Board will be in compliance with the Borough ordinance.

A resolution formally appointing the members will be placed on the October 12, 2021, Council Meeting agenda.

Timed Parking on Broadway

Regarding Ordinance No. 9, 2021, Councilman Weng stated that after discussion with Chief McAteer and Deputy Chief Zander, the time limit for the parking spot on Broadway near the Broadway Bakery will be in effect from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and with a time limit of fifteen minutes instead of the originally proposed thirty minutes.

Update Outdoor Seating Extension & Alcohol Consumption in Ballard Park and Theatre Avenue

Councilwoman Rudley reminded members of Council that the resolutions to extend outdoor seating at restaurants in the Uptown area and to permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the triangle section of Ballard Park both expire on October 3, 2021. Under Governor Murphy’s Executive Order, both resolutions may be extended until November 2022. Councilwoman Rudley said that the Garden Club members have expressed their displeasure at having the site line to the garden on First Avenue obscured by the tables and chairs and that there have also been complaints about the tables and chairs placed along the curb making it difficult for people to exit their vehicles.

Councilwoman James said that she would like to have the resolutions in place through October to provide seating for those attending the Witches of Pitman shopping event and October’s 4th Friday celebration. Mayor Razzo stated that the seating in front of First Avenue has always seemed to be a dangerous situation to him due to the traffic at that intersection. Councilman Weng stated that he has also received complaints about the tables and chairs in front of First Avenue and in front of Borough Hall.

Members of Council agreed that the tables and chairs may remain in place until November 1, 2021, and that the situation will be addressed again in the spring of 2022 to allow them to be extended to the curb once again.

Councilwoman Rudley asked for Council’s opinion on whether to extend or end the resolution to permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the previously designated area of Ballard Park. In response to a question from Mayor Razzo, Chief McAteer said that the Pitman Police Department has received very few and very minor complaints about people taking alcoholic beverages beyond the appointed area, and that there has been little to no BYOB consumption on Theatre Avenue. It was suggested to extend the resolution permitting the consumption of alcohol in these areas until November 8, 2021. Council will revisit these two resolutions in 2022 if there is a need to extend the dates again. The following action was taken by Council following discussion.

Resolution No. 142, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Resolution No. 51, 2021 to Extend from October 3, 2021, the Authorization Given to Kelly Green Brewery, Human Village Brewery, and Stage Right Wine Bar the Use of Municipal Sidewalks in Compliance with Executive Order No. 2020-150 until November 1, 2021

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 143, 2021 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Resolution No. 49, 2021 to Extend from October 3, 2021 the Authorization to Consume and Possess in Open Containers Alcoholic Beverages in a Specified Area of Ballard Park, and to Extend the BYOB Approval for Non-Licensed Borough Restaurants to Extend to Theatre Avenue in Compliance with State Law, Municipal Code, and New Jersey ABC Regulations until November 8, 2021

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Miscellaneous

Mayor Razzo stated that he is in favor of changing the way Council votes on actions listed in the agenda to a consent form of approval where multiple items are considered in one roll call vote of Council. Mayor Razzo said that he has discussed this with Council President Blass who is also in favor of the change.

Councilman Mazzola stated that most resolutions are approved unanimously by Council and agreed that a Consent Agenda would speed up the business portion of the meeting leaving more time for public comment.

Motion to close discussion: Blass Second: Rudley
Time: 7:36 p.m.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: James Second: Weng
Time: 7:36 p.m.

Amy Thurman, 125 Magnolia Avenue – Ms. Thurman mentioned the problems the residents on the last block of Magnolia Avenue are having with their water quality and asked how long it will take for the proposed remediation project to begin.

Council President Blass reviewed the measures that have been taken by the Water and Sewer Division employees and stated that the improvements have only lasted about a week each time something was done. He suggested that until the Bond Ordinance is in place, and the project is put out to bid, the hydrants will be flushed weekly on Magnolia Avenue.

Al McMaster, 129 Magnolia Avenue – Mr. McMaster commended the Public Works employees on their responsiveness and efforts in trying to find a solution to the Magnolia Avenue problem. He said that the problem has occurred off and on over the last two years, but that in the last six months to a year it has gotten worse. Mr. McMaster said that flushing the hydrant helps a little and suggested the possibility that a water valve is closed along the main system, possibly the valve at the intersection of Waverly and Magnolia. He said that this problem can occur if the water service is a loop system, such as the one at the end of Magnolia Avenue, if a valve is closed.

Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue – in referring to the removal of tables and chairs along Broadway, Mr. Madison stated that the tables at the end of First Avenue should be removed and the tables along the curb in front of 136 S. Broadway should be moved back from the curb line.

Motion to close public portion: James Second: Weng
Time: 7:46 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Blass Second: Rudley
Time: 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

