

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

Call to Order

Time: 8:10 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Councilman Weng

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, 2022, posted on the Borough Hall front door, and advertised on the Borough of Pitman website continuously since January 7, 2022.

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent
Councilman Kelly: Present
Councilwoman Milward: Present
Mayor Razze: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilperson James: Present
Councilman Mazzola: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
Borough Solicitor Vigilante: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Council Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Councilperson James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Council Reports

Councilwoman Milward

Pitman Police Department

The Police Department performed the following activities in January:

Motor Vehicle Stops: 143
Total Traffic Summonses: 63
Written Warnings: 26
Arrests: 5
Investigations: 27
Total Calls for Service: 1341

Bureau of Fire Safety

The Bureau of Fire Safety continues to remain busy with inspections. They are working along the Woodbury Road corridor and completing inspections at our eating establishments. The 2021 LEA report

is complete and was submitted to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in accordance with statutory requirements. In addition, all the Life Hazard Use inspections were completed as required.

Pitman Fire Department

Pitman Fire Company #1 is always looking for new volunteers. They invite you to attend a Tuesday night meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held at Pitman Fire Company #1. All are welcome.

The Highland Chemical Engine Company is also looking for new volunteers to not only assist with fighting fires, but also as social members. Social Members are non-firefighters that work to support their mission through non-firefighting activities. To join Highland, you can contact them by phone at 856-589-0832, on social media, or just come to the station any Tuesday evening after 7:00 p.m.

The Fire Department is also looking for members to participate in the Junior Program. The age to participate is 14 to 17 years old. They meet every first and third Monday of the month. The first Monday, the juniors meet at Pitman Fire Company #1. On the third Monday, the Juniors meet at Highland. For more information, please reach out to district28explorers@gmail.com or through Pitman Fire Department Junior Firefighters on Facebook.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Outreach Committee will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference room in Borough Hall. If you are interested in staying up to date with our 2022 Senior Outreach events, please contact Lucille Petrillo by phone (856) 357-2286, or email lucelu16@yahoo.com.

As always, you can reach me anytime at courtney.milward@pitman.org or 856-716-4249.

Councilman Weng

No Report

Councilman Mazzola

Finance & Administration

A bid opening was held for the last two available spots on the Welcome to Pitman sign at Delsea Drive and East Holly Avenue. A contract will be awarded tonight to Words Matter Bookstore and Float Haven Health Spa.

The first meeting of the Pitman Youth Council was held on January 27. The members elected the officers.

Public Works Manager Rodi and Municipal Clerk O'Donnell met with the new Borough Engineering firm, Fralinger Engineering, to discuss ongoing and new projects in the Borough.

A meeting was held via Zoom with the Board of Elections and the Gloucester County Municipal Clerks on January 28 to discuss the November 2021 General Election. It was decided that additional firsthand training will be provided to the Board Workers on how to operate the electronic poll books and voting machines to try to avoid some of the confusion that occurred in the polling places during that election.

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Sustainable Pitman

Sustainable Pitman is meeting via Zoom on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. The focus for 2022 will be to achieve Silver Status and implement parts of the bike/pedestrian plan that was passed in 2020. The Chairman, Jim Aspras, recently applied for a \$20,000 grant for the PSEG grant to be used to implement parts of the bike and pedestrian plan if awarded to the Borough. They are also planning to promote the reusable bag deadline of May 4, 2022.

Chicken Advisory Board

The Chicken Advisory Board members met on January 31 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. They are working on the application for residents so the program can get up and running by spring.

Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The Planning and Zoning Board members will meet on February 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The former Sony property will be on the agenda and discussion will focus on what can be done to motivate the owners to develop the property.

Construction Office

For the year 2021 the Construction Office collected \$137,369.00 in fees, processed 538 permits and 488 Certificates of Continued Occupancy/Approvals. Miscellaneous fees collected in 2021 totaled \$11,941.00.

Councilperson James

2022 Liaison: Parks & Recreation, Library Board, Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce & Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Parks & Recreation

The Pitman Pickleball League for adults aged 18 and over continues on Wednesday nights in two sessions from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. More than sixty-five people are currently on the app to sign-up for thirty-six weekly spots.

The Parks & Recreation Department has also repaired the trim around the roof of Sunset Auditorium. Tee ball registrations are open, and the program will begin in April. Travel basketball will conclude by the end of the month.

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

At the recent meeting of the GPCC, the Chamber voted to award the contract for Theatre Avenue cleaning to Classic Cleaning/BioTech of New Jersey, which is owned and operated by a Pitman resident. The contract will begin the week of February 28. Registration is now open for the Spring and Fall Craft Shows. Information can be found on the Uptown Pitman website. The Sweetest Night in Pitman was held on Saturday night and was a successful event for our vendors and our business community.

The March meeting of the GPCC will be held on Monday, March 7. The Chamber Check-in will be at 10:00 a.m. at Float Haven Health Spa, and the regular meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall. Speakers will be addressing security practices for small business locations.

McCowan Memorial Library

During the month of January, 2,359 people visited McCowan Memorial Library and there were 103 internet users. There were twenty children's programs with 102 people in attendance.

Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

I am pleased to report that the first meeting of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will take place in Borough Hall on Thursday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

As always, I am available to answer any questions or concerns via email at vanessa.james@pitman.org or by phone at 336-407-8604.

Councilman Kelly

Historic Commission

Last Thursday the Historic Commission had a meeting where they approved eight applications with two stipulations.

Economic Development Committee

No report.

Public Works

On January 29th, all employees of the Highway Department and the Water and Sewer Department worked to plow and shovel the snow that fell during the storm. Overtime salaries totaled \$17,623.00 for the fifteen hours worked. Approximately 3,500 gallons of brine, 47.17 tons of salt, and fifty bags of magnesium were used before and during the storm. A few of the employees returned on February 3rd to clear Broadway of snow and \$848.00 was paid in overtime for six men working for three hours.

New Business

Resolution No. 40, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of Real Estate Taxes – CoreLogic Tax Service

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Resolution No. 41, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of Real Estate Taxes – Wells Fargo Tax Service

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Resolution No. 42, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Award of Competitive Contract for the Lease of Advertising Space – Welcome to Pitman Sign

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 43, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Release of Escrow Funds Provided by Patrick D. Broesler for a Project Affecting a Parcel Known as 554 Florence Avenue, Block 223 Lot 7, on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 44, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for the 2022 Collection and Recycling of CED and Non-CED E-waste for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 45, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey in Support of the Chestnut Branch Watershed Plan

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 46, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Waiving Permit Application Fees Related to the Installation of a Rooftop Heating and Air Conditioning Unit at the Pitman United Methodist Church

Motion: James

Second: Milward

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 47, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County

of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Release of the Performance Bond Provided by the Pettit Group LLC; Chapman Landscaping for a Project Affecting a Parcel Known as 330 N. Woodbury Road, Block 119 Lot 2.01, and Block 115 Lot 3 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: James
Roll Call:
Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Second: Milward
Councilperson James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 48, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Public Sale of Tax Sale Certificate 18-00008

Motion: James
Roll Call:
Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Second: Milward
Councilperson James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 49, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Bryson & Yates Consulting Engineers, LLC for Engineering Services to Close Out Specific Construction Projects in the Borough of Pitman in 2022

Motion: James
Roll Call:
Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Second: Milward
Councilperson James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 50, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for a Police Vehicle, 2022 Model Year Ford Police Interceptor Utility All Wheel Drive Vehicle for the Pitman Police Department to Winner Ford, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Pursuant to New Jersey State Contract 20-Fleet-01189

Motion: James
Roll Call:
Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Second: Milward
Councilperson James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 51, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Making Appointments to Specific Board and Commission Positions and Confirming Such Appointments for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: James
Roll Call:
Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Second: Milward
Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain to # 51316, #31347, and #18354; approves all other items on bill list

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Alcyon Lake Park Clean-up

Date & Time: March 19, 2022; 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Alcyon Lake Park

Sponsor: Pitman Environmental Commission

Contact Person: Bob Holwitt

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event: Coin Drop Fundraiser

Date & Time: March 5, 2022; 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Intersections of Broadway at Holly Ave. and Pitman Ave.

Sponsor: Pitman Athletic Association

Contact Person: Christian Dutil

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Absent

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Approved contingent upon providing the Borough of Pitman with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Time: 8:23 p.m.

Dave Hoh, 101 Colonial Avenue – Mr. Hoh asked Councilwoman Milward about an incident that occurred in the Borough that caused the Pitman Police Department to issue a press release on the PPD

Facebook page when this is not the normal procedure for such things.

Mayor Razze recognized Deputy Chief Zander who was present at this meeting. DC Zander stated that the incident happened in the middle of the afternoon beginning inside Borough Hall and spilling out onto the street. Because there were a lot of pedestrians in the area, the Police Department wanted to be as transparent as possible and decided to post the information publicly explaining what happened.

Mike Grillo, 155 West Avenue – In regard to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Mr. Grillo asked the purpose of appointing the Borough Clerk, the Board of Education representative, and the Chief of Police to the committee, and wondered if these positions will always be filled by the individuals appointed to these positions going forward.

Mayor Razze replied that he cannot speak for the appointments made by future Councils, but that for himself he would say that someone that represents each of these departments would be appointed to the committee while he is Mayor.

Mr. Grillo said that he knew of many people who had filled out applications and then noticed that some of the appointees had not completed an application, so wondered what was the point of the application? He said that he wondered if individuals had approached the Mayor directly about an appointment.

Mayor Razze replied that some people did come to him directly, some were individuals that he had hoped would be part of the task force but were not able to do so. He said that many individuals did not come directly to him but came from recommendations made by other members of Council and members of the community. There was nothing advertised that said interested applicants had to contact the Mayor.

Mr. Grillo said that he was on the Task Force that pushed for the establishment of the committee, and he expressed his appreciation to Councilperson James, Judy O'Donnell, former Council President Paul Blass, and the Mayor for taking their personal time to be at the Task Force meetings. He said the Task Force was an amazing and diverse group of people, who got a lot of work done and put a lot of effort into the process.

Mayor Razze said that he understands Mr. Grillo's statements and that his reply to Mr. Grillo is that the purpose of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee was always to make sure that the Borough is including ideas, backgrounds, and experiences that would work well together while not focusing on one particular area, but rather on many different areas, and to be as inclusive as possible.

Jennifer Trumpfheller, 525 West Avenue – Ms. Trumpfheller said that she refrained from asking questions at the last meeting because she was one of the people who applied and was optimistic for an appointment. She said that she remembered discussion right after the November Election that there would be a diversity training class that Council members would be taking and she wondered if that had been pushed aside.

Mayor Razze thanked Ms. Trumpfheller for asking about the training and said that Ms. Walker had also reached out to him about this. Mayor Razze said that he had a brief conversation with Ms. Winters from the NAACP but wanted to have the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee in place and task them with organizing the training as their first official function.

Judy Walker, 503 Hudson Avenue – Ms. Walker asked Mayor Razze what his role is with the DEI Committee going forward.

Mayor Razze said that his role with the committee will be the same as the role that he had previously played within the Task Force, which is to attend as many meetings as he can and to be a part of the discussions and bringing back the discussion points to Council, and to gather more information as needed.

Bill Ritzler, 517 N. Broadway – Mr. Ritzler stated that he knows that some of those present are anti-GCL and said that he is fine with that. He said that he is in favor of the GCL Line, and that there are other people who also support the project.

Mr. Ritzler stated the following:

Some of the things that the anti-GCL group talk about are right, some of them not. They make claims that the horns will sound every 7.5 minutes and they continually base that on content in the final environmental impact statement. I cannot argue the point that it is in there. When talking to the people at the Port Authority they have been very clear that they have the intention of building infrastructure for a quiet zone. They were also very clear in telling me that the county highways, which include Broadway, Holly, Pitman, and Lambs Road are the county's responsibility and that the Borough cannot be made to pay for liability costs. If you are out to get information rather than listen to me, someone should go to the Delaware River Port Authority and ask them questions, talk to them at length, and get some answers.

In response to people who talk about running the train tracks along Route 55, Route 55 does not serve as a highway transit corridor. The existing railroad that runs through town is exactly what they want, because that is where the people are. The project that you see before you is what GCL is. It either advances as planned or it gets tossed altogether.

In terms of the Port Authority and the quiet zones, there is conversation going on, and the DVRPA representatives told me that they are involved in finding or identifying the revenue that passes through in the NJ Transit and the NJDOT. The mechanics of this, and how it works with the county and being reimbursed for liability, is above my pay grade.

I also asked about the quiet zone infrastructure and basically the response I got was, "we would not be building this infrastructure with all the additional cost associated unless we intended to use it."

Charlotte Hess, 348 Rosebury Street, Philadelphia – Ms. Hess said as a resident of Philadelphia, she has found that the train noises are not that bad and are something that can be gotten used to.

Ms. Hess also stated that when members of the public are addressing Council members, it would be very respectful if they weren't rifling through papers and not pay attention. She asked that Council please give the speakers their full attention.

Regarding the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Committee, Ms. Hess suggested that since Mayor Razze mentioned that as long as he is Mayor three spots on the committee would be taken by the Chief, of Police, the Borough Clerk, and a Board of Education Representative, would Mayor Razze consider increasing the number of members to fourteen. That way, the additional members would create the eleven members recommended in the ordinance.

Mayor Razze said that this is certainly something that can be considered for the future. He explained that the original number of members in the ordinance was listed as seven and was later expanded to eleven

individuals. He said that the members have now been appointed, and that was what was voted on by Council but that Ms. Hess' suggestion is certainly something to consider.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng
Time: 8:41 p.m.

Second: Milward

Adjournment

Motion: Weng
Time: 8:42 p.m.

Second: Milward

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator