

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:02 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence**

Councilman Fitzpatrick

**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: Present  
Councilman Kelly: Present  
Councilwoman Milward: Absent  
Mayor Razzo: 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 February 14, 2022

Motion: Kelly

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Abstain  
Councilman Kelly: Yes  
Councilwoman Milward: Absent  
Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Council Reports**

Councilman Vince Kelly

**Public Works**

Councilman Kelly reported that bulk collection will take place next week.

**Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee members talked about installing charging stations for electric vehicles in the Borough. They will gather more information and look into a few different site locations before moving forward with submitting a grant application.

Councilperson Vanessa E. James read the following report:

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

### **Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce**

The March meeting of the GPCC will be held on Monday, March 7. The Chamber Check-in will take place 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.

Also stayed tuned for information about a St. Patrick's Day shopping event!

### **Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

One of the recommendations and suggestions made by the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, was to recognize historic and cultural months throughout the year. Accordingly, I would like to take a moment to recognize this month as African American History Month. African American History Month is a month-long celebration of the contributions that African Americans have made throughout United States history. The fight for equality and equity are not finished and it is the role of everyone in our community to continue that fight.

The first meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will take place at Borough Hall on Thursday, March 10 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](mailto:vanessa.james@pitman.org) or by phone at 336-407-8604.

### Councilman John Fitzpatrick

#### **Combined Planning & Zoning Board**

The Planning Board met on February 22 and approved the site plan for 487 W. Holly Avenue. It has yet to be determined if the applicant can have a portion, or all, of the site plan waived. Also discussed was the possibility of designating the property located at 400 N. Woodbury Road a condemnation area in the Redevelopment Plan for the Borough.

#### **Zoning Office**

The Zoning Officer reviewed nineteen applications and inspected nine properties for possible violations.

#### **Sustainable Pitman**

Sustainable Pitman members met on February 24, 2022. An application was submitted for a \$20,000 grant from PSE&G. Some of the action items included in the grant application are for items listed in the Borough's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

#### **Chicken Advisory Board**

The Chicken Advisory Board met on February 22, 2022. The members are completing the application for the Backyard Chicken Pilot Program. By spring, residents will be able to apply for permission to have a chicken coop on their property if approved by the Advisory Board.

Councilman Adam Mazzola read the following report:

#### **Board of Education**

First, I would like to recognize Board Vice President Darlene Powell for becoming a Certified Board Member. Her experience continues to support the Board and our District.

Second, As you may or may not know, Pitman High School has had several incidents of hate speech in the past couple of weeks. These have included derogatory language and imagery based on race, religion, sexuality, and gender identity. PHS staff and administration have partnered with local and county authorities to investigate these matters and have also taken the following actions:

- PHS administration facilitated a panel discussion that included students and staff members sharing individual experiences with prejudice and bias to the entire PHS student body.
- The Genders & Sexualities Alliance group is hosting after school sessions for students and staff members to build understanding about issues of concern to the LGBTQIA+ community.
- PHS administrators have reached out to local community resource groups. A leader of the local Jewish community will be meeting with PHS staff this week to help.
- The district is in discussions with local experts on diversity, equity, and inclusion in schools regarding sustained staff development and community engagement.

As a parent of PHS students in the LGBTQIA+ community, I applaud the PHS staff for acting quickly in response to these incidents. Support matters and it is my sincere hope that these above actions spur additional conversations beyond the school.

I encourage anyone who wants to learn more or who would be willing to help facilitate discussions to reach out to local resource groups like the Pride Alliance of Pitman, PARC, the Rainbow Room at Renaissance Village, or contact me at [adam.mazzola@pitman.org](mailto:adam.mazzola@pitman.org) for more information.

Councilman Weng read the following report:

In honoring Black History Month I will be devoting my report to the Honorable John E. Wallace, born on March 13, 1942.

Justice Wallace is one of Pitman's most famous former residents. New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Wallace was born in Pitman, in his home on Muriel Avenue, on March 13, 1942. He grew up in Pitman and graduated from Pitman Class of 1960 where he was a three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and baseball, earning three varsity letters in each.

He is currently a member of the PHS Sports Hall of Fame and Gloucester County Hall of Fame.

He attended the University of Delaware and graduated in 1964 where he also excelled as an athlete.

During the summers during college, he would come home and work for Public Works.

After college he went on to attend Harvard Law School in 1967 and he also served in the United States Army earning the rank of Captain.

During his legal career Justice Wallace served in multiple leadership and advisory roles including the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force for Minority Concerns, the New Jersey Ethics Commission, and the Judicial Advisory Committee on American Justice.

During his long tenure on the bench, Justice Wallace had a reputation for being a sound jurist and also

had the rare distinction for a judge of being both well-respected and well-liked.

He has earned numerous awards throughout his career including the Medal of Honor from the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Martin F. Caulfield Distinguished Service Award from the Gloucester County Bar Foundation and the Civility in Government and Politics Award of Excellence from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

Justice Wallace was a trailblazer for African Americans especially those who practice law. We honor his continued service, and Pitman is proud to count him as one of our famous residents. In researching this, I found an interview that I can share with anyone who is interested in viewing it. It is on the New Jersey Courts website. It reviews his legal career, and a significant portion goes over his childhood in Pitman.

Councilwoman Milward submitted the following report

**Office of Emergency Management**

On Saturday February 19, the Office of Emergency Management conducted testing on three fire sirens in the Borough.

**Pitman Police Department**

The Police Department is in the process of increasing the visibility of patrol vehicles with the addition of reflective angle markings to the rear of each marked vehicle.

Deputy Chief Zander, Sgt. Streater, and Sgt. Carson each attended *Juvenile Justice Commission Training* on February 17, 2022.

Det. Barbetta and Investigator Bailey attended GCPO training, *The Handling of Sexual Assault Investigations*, on February 24, 2022.

Chief McAteer completed a class titled *Inclusion at Work*.

Sgt. Leach and Patrol Officer Khoury attended the monthly School Board Meeting in their capacity as School Resource Officers, and as representatives of the Pitman Police Department.

**Pitman Fire Department**

The Department conducted their mandatory annual Anti-Harassment Training on February 22 at Station 28-3.

**Fire Company No. 1**

Fire Company No. 1 remained busy throughout February. From the February 1 - February 25 the company responded to twenty incidents and each member received a total of six hours training.

Pitman Fire Company No. 1 is always looking for new volunteers; you are invited to their Tuesday night meetings beginning at 7:30 p.m.

**Highland Chemical Engine Company**

The Highland Chemical Engine Company is also always looking for new volunteers, not only fire fighters but also social members. To join Highland you may contact them by phone or social media.

**Senior Outreach Committee**

The Senior Outreach Committee held their second meeting on February 17 where they discussed upcoming bus trips, local events, and hosting monthly game nights in town. They are hoping to have a schedule available in the next couple of weeks. Senior Outreach will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

If you are interested in the Senior Outreach Committee, please contact Lucille Petrillo at 856-357-2286 or by email at [lucelu16@yahoo.com](mailto:lucelu16@yahoo.com).

As always you can reach me anytime at [countney.milward@pitman.org](mailto:countney.milward@pitman.org) or 856-716-4249.

**New Business**

**Resolution No. 52, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of the 2022 TRICO JIF Safety Contract and Supporting the Implementation of Provisions Therein for the Workplace Practices of the Borough of Pitman**

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

**Resolution No. 53, 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; 125 Tenth Avenue, Block 22 Lot 38 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman**

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

**Resolution No. 54, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting the Proposal Submitted by Fralinger Engineering, PA to Act as the Borough of Pitman Representative for the 2022 NJDOT “Reconstruction of Lakeside Avenue in its’ Entirety” Project**

Motion: James	Second: Fitzpatrick
Roll Call:	
Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes	Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes  
Councilwoman Milward: Absent  
Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilman Weng: Yes

**Resolution No. 55, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract for the Installation of a Hood and Kitchen Suppression System at Pitman Fire Company No. 1 to Ankor Fire & Safety Equipment, Inc.**

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 56, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Refund of Water and Sewer Payments Made for 308 Cedar Avenue, Block 180 Lot 2 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman**

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

**(Removed from agenda, no action was taken)** Resolution No. 57, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Oppose the Glassboro-Camden Line

**Resolution No. 58, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application**

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 59, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Member to the Borough of Pitman Backyard Chicken Advisory Board – Ross Millard**

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 61, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough Engineer to Prepare a Bid Package for the E/V Charging Stations and to Submit the Application for the It Pays to Plug In: NJ’s Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Program**

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

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

**Resolution No 62, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Preparation of the AARP 2022 Community Challenge Grant for Improvements and Repairs to Sunset Auditorium**

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

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

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Mazzola  
Roll Call:  
Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilperson James: Yes  
Councilman Kelly: Yes  
Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to #51407, approves all other items of bill list.  
Councilwoman Milward: Absent  
Councilman Weng: Yes  
Mayor Razze \_\_\_\_\_

Second: Weng

**Event Permit Applications**

**Event: Comedy Show**

Date & Time: April 1, 2022; 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Will Gardiner

Contact Person: Will Gardiner

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

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

*Event Permit Application was approved contingent upon submitting a completed Facilities Use Form and a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.*

**Event: Movie Night**

Date & Time: May 6, 2022; 7:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Memorial School HSA

Contact Person: Allison Massimini

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor Razzo stated to those in attendance that Resolution No. 57, 2022, was tabled until a future meeting to allow for more discussion, comments, and questions from members of the public.**

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Time: 8:20 p.m.

**Fiona James, 91 Circle Avenue** - Ms. James stated that she is here tonight as a representative of the Youth Advisory Council. On behalf of the Council, she shared the following information from their last meeting.

We created some committees for the goals that we want to achieve. The first committee formed was **Communication** and will be headed by Aidan James. He is going to create our social media accounts and will manage our introduction to the Pitman High School and Pitman Middle School.

Secondly we created a committee for **Correspondence**. Ben Horner will be in charge of this committee. He will be correspondent for the different clubs and organizations within Pitman High School and the Borough.

Lastly, we discussed the formation of the committee for **Planning** for when the need arises. We will be having our next meeting March 24, and it is open to the public.

Mayor Razzo stated that there will be more information about the Youth Advisory Council on the Borough Facebook page. The group has met twice so far.

**Sandy Keller, 139 W. Holly Avenue** – Ms. Keller asked if the costs and other information associated with recycling are available.

Councilman Kelly said that he will have that information available at the next Council meeting.

**Mike Grillo, 155 West Avenue** – Mr. Grillo stated that there is a tree on Seventh Avenue that is causing some damage to the surrounding properties and that there is confusion as to whether the tree is on private property or Borough property. Mr. Grillo asked when the Minutes will be available online.



Councilman Weng – Regarding the tree, I will reach out to our Shade Tree Commissioner to take a look at it. He will determine whether it is on Borough property. If it is a healthy tree we might not be able to cut it down, but we can certainly trim it back.

**Bill Ritzler, 517 N. Broadway**

Mr. Ritzler spoke: So when I was here two weeks ago, I left the meeting with the impression that the Borough Council was going to spend time and effort to make a thorough investigation of the facts surrounding the Glassboro-Camden line. Two weeks later on the agenda there is a resolution in opposition. What did the borough do in gathering information? How did this process go, good or bad, and what became the driver in creating this resolution?

Councilman Kelly – We were supposed to have more input from Council on this and we did not. This is why we tabled it today, so I can get some input from both sides.

Mayor Razzo – To answer your question, I don't think there has been any investigation since our last meeting. There was a change to that ordinance which encouraged Council to request that information. This is one of the reasons we are holding off.

Bill Ritzler – Why was the Resolution tabled?

Mayor – There was no reason to have this on the agenda tonight.

Bill Ritzler – Why does an opposition Resolution exist?

Councilman Kelly – Safety, noise, and pollution.

Bill Ritzler – Where is your source of information?

Councilman Kelly – The DIS report from the GCL. I have a list of properties along Lambs Road that are already contaminated from this.

Bill Ritzler – This study was conducted and in compliance with the Natural Environmental Protection Act.

Council President Fitzpatrick – Some of the concerns I have are the closing of streets, loss of parking, and the ending at the Walter Rand Transportation Center. I took a River line ride and went there, and it is really not a good place. These are my concerns.

Mayor – It's to everyone's interpretation. It is my understanding that a renovation will be taking place at that location.

Councilman Mazzola – From the last meeting you were under the correct impression that we were going to do more research, the issues are that we asked questions and have not gotten answers to our satisfaction. The Resolution is meant to put some weight behind the questions. It's not meant to be in opposition or a vote in favor.

**Joe Hetzel, 192 Southwest Avenue, Wenonah**

Mr. Hetzel spoke: Regarding the Glassboro-Camden line, Resolution 57 opposing the Glassboro-Camden line doesn't mean you are opposing light rail or mass transportation. I'm assuming you're opposed to the alignment of the rail line going through the towns and the impact on the quality of life.

I'm not in favor of this project running through town, or any other towns, but going down Route 55 is the better way to go. This is a bad idea. I am looking at the impact on all towns and waterways that are crossed. Quiet zones are extremely hard to get, and the horn is the best deterrent for safety, but it will create a noise problem with the number of trains passing through. Conrail is the only one that benefits from the track improvements made for the light rail.

The Woodbury Heights resolution opposed it because they had specific questions that were not addressed. The 1996 Gloucester County resolution against GCL passed twenty-five years ago because the Department of Transportation would not address the questions.

So let's stop it, talk about it, and look for a better way.

**Jennifer Trumpfheller, 525 West Avenue** – Ms. Trumpfheller said that she is offended by Council President Fitzpatrick's comments regarding to the type of people and safety issues around the Walter Rand Transportation Center in Camden.

Council President Fitzpatrick said that what he said is because he has been there and it is a safety issue to him and he did not feel safe.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng  
Time: 8:48 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

**Adjournment**

Motion: Weng  
Time: 8:50 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator