

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2022**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

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: Present
Mayor Razze: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Proclamation Presentations

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month
Juneteenth National Independence Day

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Council Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2022

Motion: Milward

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Councilwoman Milward

Congratulations to all Pitman Graduates! I wish you all the best of luck in all your future endeavors. May success always find you.

Miss Pitman Pageant

On Saturday, May 28, I had the opportunity to coordinate the hanging of the American Flag Banners along Broadway. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped coordinate the event and show up to hang the Banners on such short notice!

On Sunday, June 5, the Miss Pitman Pageant contestants met at Ballard Park for the pageant briefing, photo shoot,

and sponsor meet and greet! Thank you Lucia's for hosting the parent dessert social; the contestants had a wonderful time getting to know one another! The Miss Pitman Pageant is scheduled to be held on July 1 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket sales will begin over the next few weeks. Be on the lookout for the Miss Pitman Pageant Posters! They will be out soon with additional Pageant information.

Pitman Police Department

The PPD is sad to report the death of longtime and recently retired Pitman Crossing Guard, Mrs. Linda Ott. Mrs. Ott was an amazing person and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by the PPD as one of our best, most loyal, and dedicated Crossing Guards and friend.

Chief McAteer and the PPD would like to remind our residents and visitors to please drive safely, obey all traffic patterns and laws, wear your seatbelt, and remain undistracted while driving. The 2022 Click-it or Ticket Seat Belt Mobilization Grant that recently ended (May 23 – June 5, 2022) yielded the following results:

<u>Motor Vehicle Stops</u>	<u>Summonses Issued</u>	<u>Warnings Issued</u>
74	64	22

Chief McAteer and Deputy Chief Zander would like to thank Assemblywoman Beth Sawyer for recently taking time from her busy schedule to address the Gloucester County Police Chief's Association at their monthly meeting last Thursday which both the Chief and Deputy Chief attended. Assemblywoman Sawyer spoke individually with Chief McAteer after the meeting to discuss several prominent issues, and then again for making more time to speak with Chief McAteer this past Saturday to discuss several very important issues, including Active Shooter Training, reunification, and policies that affect the PPD and policing throughout New Jersey.

Patrol Officer Leon and Special Law Enforcement Officer McEvoy received written commendations from Chief McAteer for their dedication and service over the past few weeks. Both officers have sacrificed their personal schedules to assist with scheduling shortfalls that needed filling. Thank you to both part-time officers and keep up the excellent work.

Pitman Fire Department

Pitman Fire Company No. 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 located at Pitman Fire Company No. 1. If there is any interest in volunteering, please stop by one of the fire stations for more information.

Highland Chemical Engine Company would like to thank Second Assistant Chief Jeff Miller for his many years of Service to the Borough. Highland would also like to congratulate Joe Evans on his promotion to Second Assistant Chief! We thank you both for your service and continued dedication to the residents of Pitman.

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

The Pitman Fire Department Juniors Program met on June 6 and reviewed building construction. The Juniors walked around town to identify the various buildings and their construction types and use. The Junior members will be returning to the Gloucester County Fire Academy on June 20 to practice their skills in the Smoke House. The Pitman Fire Department is always looking for members to participate in the Junior Program. The age to participate in the Junior Program is 14 to 17 years old. For more information, please reach out to district28explorers@gmail.com or through Pitman Fire Department Junior Firefighters on Facebook.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Pitman Senior Outreach Committee will continue to host their Walk Around Alcyon Park every Friday at 9:45 a.m., through September, weather permitting. Please meet at the Rotary Pavilion, remember to bring a water bottle, and stay hydrated! On Thursday, June 16, Senior Outreach Committee will be sponsoring the Maurice River Boat Cruise trip where attendees will have the opportunity to see eagle sightings, osprey, otters, historic sites and more! Our next Senior Outreach lunch event will be held on June 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at VFW Post 6469, located at 142 Oakcrest Avenue. Games, prizes, and a light lunch will be served. We invite all Pitman Seniors to attend! Senior Outreach is also sponsoring the June 23 Pop Up Park at Ballard Park from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.! We will have a Seed Library, stretch classes, the Hobo Band, and so much more! Senior Outreach will meet tomorrow, June 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room in Borough Hall for our monthly meeting. 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 or follow on Facebook. I want to remind our residents that the Senior Bus schedule for June can be found on the Borough of Pitman website www.pitman.org.

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

Councilman Weng

Pride Alliance of Pitman

I had the honor of attending the Pride Event this past weekend, and it was an excellent event at the First Baptist Church. I want to commend the Pitman Pride Alliance for the work that they do.

Councilman Mazzola

Finance and Administration

Tonight we have the second reading of the 2022 budget. We are pleased to announce that once again we will not be raising taxes on the residents of Pitman. This action is made possible through Federal Recovery Funds and surplus usage.

The Primary Election was held on Tuesday. It seems everyone is becoming familiar and comfortable with the new voting machines and electronic signature pads now being used. I would like to thank Clerk O'Donnell and all of our poll workers for their efforts to ensure people were able to exercise their right to vote.

Personal Note

I would like to thank the Pride Alliance of Pitman for holding their second annual Pride in Pitman event on Saturday. My family spent the day listening to powerful speakers, meeting new people, and appreciating the art installations Uptown. It was clear that this was a celebration of love and community, a safe space for people to be their authentic selves. Knowing that we have supportive role models for young people in the community or people who are perhaps trying to find their identity, brings comfort to so many, and for that I thank you.

Council President Fitzpatrick

Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The Combined Planning and Zoning Board will meet on June 20 at 7:00 p.m. The public hearing for the Redevelopment Plan for the former Sony property will be held at the next meeting. The study was completed by the Borough Planner, Tim Kernan, and a copy is available at Borough Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Sustainable Pitman

At the Work Session tonight, Sustainable Pitman members presented a proposal for the Pitman Bike Trail and

updated Council on the \$70,000.00 in grants for the bike/pedestrian plan that have been received so far. The plan and grants represent Pitman's continuing commitment to bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Construction Office

During the month of April, fees collected for building permits totaled \$7,941.00 and an additional \$725.00 was collected in miscellaneous fees. In addition, thirty-eight Certificates of Continued Occupancy were issued and thirty-two permits were processed in the month of April.

Chicken Advisory Board

The next meeting of the Chicken Advisory Board is June 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Borough Hall, all are welcome to attend. At this time, six families have applied for a permit to have a coop.

Clean Communities Grant

If any non-profit organization is interested in applying for a Clean Communities Grant, they may print the application from the Borough's website and send it to me or drop it off at Borough Hall.

Councilperson James

Parks & Recreation

Don't forget to register for our Summer Recreation Programs. Please visit the Borough website for a full list of programs and activities including registration for the second year of the Pitman Fishing League! https://www.pitman.org/departments/parks_recreation/programs/summer.php

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber would like to thank Council again for supporting the Spring Craft Show. The event was a tremendous success for vendors and Pitman business owners and we look forward to another successful show in the fall.

Chamber grant applications will close this Wednesday, June 15. If you know of a business that is interested in a grant they can review the qualifications at the Chambers website, UptownPitman.com.

The Chamber looks forward to Fourth Friday this month on June 24th, and sends a special thank you to Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Administrator O'Donnell for helping to make last month's event a success despite the weather.

The first Pop-Up Park of the season is this Thursday at Ballard Park from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and is sponsored by the Pride Alliance of Pitman! Make sure you check out the Pop-Up Parks held Uptown through the second week in August!

The Chamber would like to thank the Pride Alliance of Pitman for partnering with the Uptown businesses to complete their Pride art installation. The colorful and inclusive displays create a welcoming atmosphere along Broadway.

McCowan Memorial Library

During the month of March 2022, 3,339 people visited McCowan Memorial Library and there were ninety-seven internet users. There were twenty-five children's programs with 308 people in attendance.

Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The DEI held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 9th. One of the DEI’s goals is to provide Diversity training for its committee members as well as Mayor & Council. The committee is looking into several potential options for training and hopes to have a session scheduled shortly. The Committee members also participate in a training video at the beginning of each meeting which we then discuss at the following meeting. For anyone interested in viewing our training for June, I have included a link to the video in this report. The committee is also working on providing links to resources on the DEI page of the Borough Website. Link: <https://youtu.be/2jK0gyQCoTs>

Additionally, I wanted to extend a huge thank you to the Pride Alliance of Pitman for donating the Pride Banners which are hanging Uptown, to the Chairperson of the DEI Committee, Alexandra Oasin, who organized a group to hang the banners, as well as to the volunteers who hung the banners which included members of the DEI, Mayor Razze, and members of Borough Council.

Our next meeting of the DEI Committee will take place on July 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

I also wanted to personally thank the Pride Alliance of Pitman for an outstanding event on Saturday. My whole family had a lot of fun, but we were also very moved by the speakers at the event, especially former and current students from Pitman High School. Thank you for all that you do to make Pitman a warm, welcoming, and inclusive home for all Pitman residents.

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

On June 9, the Historic Commission met. Five applications were reviewed and all were approved.

Public Works

Solid Waste

Seventeen loads of single stream recycling totaling 74.79 tons at cost of \$797.66

Plastic bag fees for were \$500.00 this month

Fourteen loads of trash to Wheelabrator totaling 55.7 tons at a cost of \$28,577.28

Mulch and brush disposal at various locations totaled 273 cubic yards at a cost of \$2,457.00.

Mayor Razze extended his condolences to the families of Linda Ott and Sean Moore on their recent passing.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 3, 2022 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Motion to open to the public: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Time 8:24 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Mazzola
Time 8:24 p.m.

Second: Weng

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razzo _____

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

2022 Municipal Budget Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution of the Borough of Pitman for the year 2022 was approved by the Borough Council on April 25, 2022 and was published in the "South Jersey Times" in the issue of May 16, 2022. Copies were made available for public inspection in Pitman Borough Hall and the McCowan Memorial Library since April 26, 2022.

Motion to open to the public: Mazzola
Time: 8:25 p.m.

Second: Weng

No public comment

Motion to close public comment: Mazzola
Time: 8:25 p.m.

Second: Weng

Motion to approve 2022 Municipal Budget Resolution: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razzo _____

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

New Business

Consent Agenda – All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by this Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Resolution No. 114, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting an Appropriations and Levy Cap Exemption for a Three Year Period for Increases in Liability, Worker’s Compensation, Cyber Liability and Property Insurance

Resolution No. 115, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Transfer of a 2007 Dodge Durango Wagon from the Borough of Pitman Police Department to the Borough of Pitman Fire Department

Resolution No. 116, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of the Performance of Board-up Services for 102-104 Second Avenue, Block 11 Lot 7 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman

Resolution No. 117, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of the Property Maintenance for 163 E. Holly Avenue, Block 79 Lot 2 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman

Resolution No. 118, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Submission of a Grant Application and Execution of a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Reconstruction of Vassar Avenue in its entirety, Roosevelt Avenue from Centre Avenue to Cedar Avenue, and Portions of McKinley Avenue

Resolution No. 119, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Closed Meeting

The general nature of the subject to be discussed shall be:

Dispute Settlement: Collegetown Construction Runoff and Glen Lake

Pending Litigation/Settlement: NJDEP/Frank J. Fazzio & Sons, Inc.

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Kelly

Second: James

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Abstain

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain to #51893 - #51896 and #18516 and #18517

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event Permit and Signage Applications

Event: Comedy Series

Dates: July 20, 21, August 31, and Sept. 1

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Pitman Revitalization Corp.

Contact Person: Benjamin Leis

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Abstain

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razze _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

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

Event: Comedy Show

Dates: August 19, October 1, and October 29

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Will Gardiner

Contact Person: Will Gardiner

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event: Walk/Run Fundraiser

Date: September 10, 2022

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Alcyon Lake Park

Sponsor: Dawn Hall

Contact Person: Dawn Hall

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

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

Raffle License Applications

Type: Off-Premises Raffle

Date: July 14, 2022

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: McBurney Field

Sponsor: Pitman Athletic Association

Contact Person: Christian Dutil

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Type: Off-Premises Raffle

Date: September 3, 2022

Time: 10:00 p.m.

Location: Pitman High School – Highland Carnival

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Jeff Penuel

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Milward

Second: Weng

Time 8:34 p.m.

Maureen Fitzpatrick, 25 Cyrus Avenue

I apologize in advance to my husband John Fitzpatrick.

The pot I’m going to stir is the one I want to swirl the hate in town out of, so that the pot is empty. John doesn’t want me to talk about his accolades but I’m going to do it anyway. First I want to thank everyone on Council for all the wonderful work that they have done, this includes the Democrats and Republicans. I recognize the demanding work put in and the hours volunteered, but this last week has been an extremely hard one for my family, and I’m disappointed in some of the Democratic Council members and some of their friends and families.

Last week there was a concerted effort to spread lies and misinformation to the public. Townspeople jumped on the hate train with light torches to the tune of hundreds of comments, likes and shares, and posts, all negative. The people they were hurting were my husband John Fitzpatrick and other members of the Pitman Republican team, as well as their wives and children who observed the hate from behind the scenes. Even a local business I once respected jumped on board, mentioning that they would not serve the Republicans. It’s a shame, as I loved these people. I want you all to remember that.

Lies tear into the soul and it causes friction and stress in the family. Now bear with me while I introduce you to the members of these Republican members; these hateful people. I’m going to start with John Fitzpatrick, my husband, and forgive me John but I want to tell them how good you are, and I know you hate this because he is a very humble man.

John Fitzpatrick has been a volunteer for twenty years, pouring thousands of hours into this town. In fact, many of our arguments at home stem from him not being home because he was here helping people. There is not a hateful bone in his body. He is the father of a Black son and a queer daughter. He has poured thousands of hours helping you, and our businesses. He was instrumental in starting events like 4th Friday, Thursday Night Pop up Parks, the annual bike race, and the boozy fest. He spearheaded the pocket park where many of you sit and eat your ice cream. He has awoken at 5:00 a.m. for twenty years to help at the spring and fall craft shows. He volunteers as the Treasurer of our church and helps your children’s schools here in Pitman with his accounting knowledge for free. He has fostered over a dozen children, brown, black, gay, and Hispanic. Our foster son Jesus Delgado still calls us mom and dad, his adoptive son Joshua, a young Black man, loves him so much. John taught him the value of hard work, and he refused to make excuses for Josh. Josh bought his own house at the age of 21 and he is a loving member of our family and contributing member of society. Our ex-son-in-law is a Black gang

member from Miami. We brought him in and John counseled him and taught him how to work hard and how to have a business. He now owns his own semi-truck and business. John employees trans people, black, and Muslim people. He has helped countless parents of addicts find help for their children and navigate through the wild world of insurance and rehabs all on his own time.

What I mentioned is only a fraction of what he does. Chances are if you love something in this town John was behind it.

You will not see him on social media, he's too busy trying to lower taxes by trying to get Sony fixed and developed. He also refuses to participate in the Facebook hate fest, but he will gladly answer you by emails or meet with you.

Courtney Milward a loving mother of a kind, and helpful son. I see him volunteering with her everywhere. She is a single mom and very smart. She got into an amazing school for being at the top in her class. She loves people, all people, she only wants to make this town one that we can all enjoy. Did she possibly make a mistake with the timing of our meet and greet, possibly? This was unintentional and she is a new Councilwoman, and she deserves some grace. She does not have a hateful bone in her body. She's energetic and loves her job and she will do anything for you, our community. Jen Evans is one of the sweetest people that I ever met. I recently met her, and I couldn't remember her name for a while, but she always remembered mine. She is a listener and has a wonderful soul. She is supersmart and is a member of the DEI committee.

The last year or two we have endured people spitting and yelling at us. Even last week following us to our events. We've been sworn at, videotaped, and photographed, all in hopes of finding some imaginary hate happening. Many members of the Democratic Party have spent hours digging into old Facebook posts finding any kind of transgression to use against good hard working volunteers in our community, but I offer you grace and I forgive you.

The Republicans are loving and kind people, there are horrible people on both sides. Let's call them what they are, idiots and ignorant. And we have one foot in the socially aware and loving side. I want you to remember that this town has 8000 people. You are Council to each of them, even white heterosexual men who are Catholic. They deserve a chance to speak and to be listen to. I am sorry that you don't like Edward Durr, I don't like him either, but he was brought here so you had a chance to speak with and talk about his Bills, gun legislation, which is awful in my opinion, and his education bill, which will affect your children. You could have talked to him, instead he was chased away by the new cancel culture.

I am sorry if I sound angry, I am just hurt. I want to say to our queer, marginalized community that I am sorry if you are hurt by the clash in the time, and the guests that were at the meet and greet. None of the guests were speakers, none were honored guests, they were there to answer your questions. The timing was unfortunate, but it was not deliberate; my family is your family. We love you and I love my crazy diverse family.

The media has made the Republicans look like toothless hate filed Proud Boys. This team is not, we are trying to change that image. We love this town, and we want the best for this town and we don't wish for accolades or have any ambitions politically, only to serve.

I will end now by asking for some grace, grace for any mistakes that were made, grace for forgiveness. I want us to learn together, I would like to break bread together, I want to mend the divide in this town.

Dave Hoh, 101 Colonial Avenue

The bag fee is bothering me, maybe we are past the point where people aren't educable about what to recycle, and maybe we should just give up, not at our homes, but with the cans along the parks and sidewalks, and just use one can and throw everything in there. If the bags are coming through that stream at this ridiculous amount, how about charging people a \$50.00 or \$150.00 fine? Can we deputize someone to go around and check the cans?

Councilman Weng to Councilman Kelly, it seems like we were doing so good for a while.

Councilman Kelly - We were doing really well. People haven't been able to get plastic bags since May 4. Remember, 'when in doubt throw it out.'

Tammy Razze, 510 N. Broadway

Councilperson James, about the community yard sale. I participate every year, this year there were too many (150 yards). This was the worst one I ever had. The people physically cannot get to all the yard sales. I did suggest before that maybe we break it up into two weekends. I thought it was advertised well. I'm sure most of the yard sale traffic was on streets where there were multiple yard sales. If you could just think about it.

Councilperson James - So what you are thinking is, half the town one weekend and the other the next weekend. I would be happy to have a conversation about that.

Tammy Razze - The Pride event, was that a justified event or was it a political event?

Mayor Razze - I don't think anyone up here can answer that question.

Councilperson James - The Pride Alliance of Pitman is a nonprofit group; they are not supposed to be political at all.

Tammy Razze - Because I thought I saw, but correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought I saw pretzels with stickers saying *DeMarco for County*. So that is why I'm asking. Also, this bothered me. Michael and I were there as you all know; we had left because we had our event to go to and we told a few of you that we would be back. I heard that former Senator Steve Sweeney was there, and I don't know if he knows Michael personally or if someone said something to him, but he got up, and I don't know verbatim what he said, but he said something to the effect "so how do you like that the Mayor just walked right on by and didn't every stop at this event". Thank you, Patrick Rumaker, for clarifying to him that it was not the case. I do appreciate that but I'm just trying to figure out why that was even mentioned.

I also felt uncomfortable in the sense that people were staring, and when we came back with the Fitzpatricks and Councilwoman Milward, I felt the same staring. I felt like I was back in high school with the teenage click. I felt like everyone was being watched and it shouldn't be that way.

I came here tonight because we are in the fifteenth year of Michael serving this town, and I have kept my mouth shut for fifteen years. I'm a resident, I'm a taxpayer and a parent. I have every right to get up here and speak like everyone else. These last two years have been the hardest two years of him serving, because even though I don't comment on Facebook, I read it and I see it. As Maureen said, you people forget that he along with everyone else has a family and a spouse and they are reading this and seeing this. A lot of these people making negative comments I thought were my friends. So it's really hard when I'm reading comments about my husband that say he's playing dirty politics and that he lacks integrity, that he's not a leader, that it was a low blow what he did. The one that kills me the most is the comment made that Michael cares more about politics then he does

Pitman. That could not be further from the truth. If you all really knew Michael, you would know that this is absolutely not true. Michael is not here for politics, he has been doing this for fifteen years. We grew up here, we love this town, and we stayed here to raise our family, and he loves this town. Like John, he's a humble guy, he does not want the praise.

You will never see Michael on social media responding to anything negative or positive. So if you have an issue you email or text him and he will get back to you. He may not agree with you, he will not judge you, he will listen to you and have an open mind. So when I saw the post about the Pride event vs. meet and greet candidates for the Republicans, do you realize there were 361 comments on that post, over what? This is what we are worrying about? If you have an issue come here and air it out. What disappoints me is the Democratic people who actually liked and loved the negative comments about Michael because he used the word "unique" on the post card that was sent out last year. Well, this town is unique. We must be inclusive, although sometimes it feels exclusive to the Republicans. I urge all on Council to talk to one another.

Kara Knauss, 222 Embury Avenue

Thank you to Mayor and Council for your Proclamations tonight.

I'm up here just as myself, as a citizen, to talk about why hurt feelings happened. I have spoken here so many times about protecting the LGBTQIA+ youth in this town. I've talked about why being an advocate for them, helps reduce percentage of attempts made to end their own lives. We come up here, and we've heard people in our community literally call queer people disgusting and tell us we should go to hell. We have had people spit at us driving down Laurel Avenue. I've had to call the police because homophobic slurs have been screamed at us. We've had Proud Boys come to this town. I don't feel safe all the time here, and I've come up here to talk about why I don't feel safe as a queer person living in this town, and what's hurtful is that while a conversation happens here and there, I've met with the Mayor to talk about certain issues and thank you for that. But what is hard is that we come up here and speak and there is silence and there's little collaboration. It's frustrating to get up and say that an event is happening that will conflict, then there's really no dialog after that. Sometimes it gets a little confusing to why there isn't collaboration about town events. I know it's not easy to schedule things. The day we scheduled our event there were a lot of things going on and that's true with the Craft Show. But I think sometimes when we forget to work together, we forget to collaborate ahead of time. This kind of shortchanges people in our community to come out and to have the opportunity to speak to Assembly people when we were trying to have our celebration. Were we to leave our celebration to have a presence and advocate for the queer youth who are under threat from legislation from "Don't Say Gay" Bills that are happening all over the country? How are we supposed to talk to this Representative if we are busy trying to create a fun family environment in this town? So I hope moving forward that we are able to work better together.

Judy Walker 503 Hudson Avenue

National politics is making its way into our community, that's just the reality for those of us with queer kids, Muslim kids, brown kids. Ed Durr is a terrifying person. Here is a man who literally wants to erase LGBTQIA people from our schools. It's terrifying. It's 'not nothing' to hang out with him. I don't say that in front of an audience, I say that in front of you. So please reflect on that for a minute and think about how scary it is to have the ugliest kind of national politics from our perspective in our town on Pride Day. I'm asking you consider what that represents and how that feels in the community. I wish that our community would come together and say to the Senator 'what you're selling is not welcome here,' this is not what our community is about. We don't want that kind of hate here, anti-gay laws, your gun laws, anti-Muslim sentiment in this community. This is not what we are about. I hope you hear the pain and fear that motivated that.

Time: 9:50 p.m.

No action was taken by Council after returning to an open meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Time: 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator