

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2022**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

Council President 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 2, 2022, posted on the Borough Hall front door, and advertised on the Borough of Pitman website continuously since January 6, 2022.

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Present
Councilman Kelly: Present
Councilwoman Milward: Present
Mayor Razzo: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Special Presentation

Mayor Razzo announced Lee Lanterman as the Grand Marshal of the 2022 Fourth of July Parade

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Council Meeting and Closed Council Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2022

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Youth Advisory Committee Report

Rebecca Mazzola, Secretary of the Pitman Youth Advisory Council

Good evening Mayor & Council, I'm Rebecca Mazzola, Secretary of the Pitman Youth Advisory Council.

On behalf of the Advisory Council I would like to report that our first Fourth Friday event was a success. We used the Pitman Chamber of Commerce budget of \$50.00 to buy prizes for the kids that won a game of Bingo. We hope, and plan to have many more successful activities in the future.

We have also officially picked the Pride Alliance of Pitman as our non-profit organization to donate the earnings of our Clean Communities clean-up to. That application has been submitted for the date of July 9, 2022.

The official Pitman Youth Advisory Council social media sites have been set up on both Instagram and as a page

on Facebook. Through this achievement we hope to gain more recognition and better communication with those that can't make it to our meetings or don't stay up to date with everything that's happening in town.

The Pitman Youth Advisory Council has also been invited by the Parks and Recreation Program to participate in the creation of a Haunted Trail attraction in Alcyon Park this October. Along with that, we were also invited to partner with Parks and Recreation to create an introduction to a Geocache activity where people in town can learn about Geocaching on a local level. We have teams of people that show special interest in both areas who will meet more with Parks and Recreation Commission members to create the best event that we can for the youth in town.

Lastly, as a representative of the Pitman Municipal Alliance, Mrs. O'Donnell presented us with an opportunity to earn a \$4,000.00 grant every year if we run a program in the school about the dangers of underage drinking and substance abuse. The Council has made no further decisions with this grant, as we're taking the time to read over the requirements and form a concrete plan.

Council Reports

Councilwoman Milward

Miss Pitman Pageant

The Miss Pitman Pageant is scheduled to be held on July 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pitman High School. Tickets will be on sale at Borough Hall this Wednesday, June 29 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., as well as the PHS Auditorium entrance on June 29 and 30 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are \$12.00 and will be \$15.00 the night of the show. I hope to see you there to kick off our small town July 4th celebrations!

Pitman Police Department

On June 29 and 30, Patrol Officers Weist and Khoury, along with Corporal Decker, will attend Resiliency Training at the Gloucester County Police Academy. On June 28 and 29, Sergeant Carson and Corporal Pierson will attend an Accreditation Seminar being held at the Police Expo in Atlantic City at the Convention Center. On June 28, 29, and 30, Chief McAteer will be attending the same seminar as well as the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Training Conference. The Pitman Police Department will be hosting a Pop-up Park on July 7 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Ballard Park. The Pitman Police Department Pop-up Park theme will be *Bicycle Safety*.

Pitman Fire Department

Pitman Fire Company No. 1 has remained busy through June. From June 1 - June 20, the company has responded to thirteen incidents and has met for two training nights totaling approximately four hours of training. 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 is looking forward to seeing all residents along the parade route on the 4th of July. For the past few weeks, Highland has been preparing for their Labor Day weekend carnival as well as responding to calls and participating in drills. 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 Junior Firefighter Program members met on June 20 and participated in Smoke House Training and Mayday Trailer Training at the Gloucester County Fire Academy. The Juniors Program is excited to welcome their newest member, Aiden Milward. 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

Pitman Senior Outreach sponsored the June 23 Pop-up Park at Ballard Park. Thank you to all of our vendors who donated their time and resources to make this event a huge success. A special thanks to the Pitman Hobo Band for their wonderful performance. Our next Senior Outreach event will be held on July 18 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 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, or follow on Facebook, [Pitman Senior Outreach](#). 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.

I hope all residents have a safe and wonderful 4th of July! As always, you can reach me anytime at 856-716-4249 or courtney.milward@pitman.org.

Councilman Weng

No report

Councilman Mazzola

Finance & Administration

I am pleased to announce that the Borough has received an unmodified opinion for the 2021 Annual Audit. Today I met with CFO Considine, Clerk O'Donnell, and the representatives from Holt, McNally & Associates to review the report. Every indication was made that our Borough was in excellent financial shape as of the end of last year and we received the cleanest possible opinion. Thank you to Mr. Considine, Mrs. O'Donnell, and everyone in the Borough office for their continued hard work, ensuring our Borough's success.

There will be a job posting in the Water & Sewer Department in the near future. Any interested candidates should check the Borough website in the coming days for details.

To continue to recognize Pride Month

Last meeting I thanked the Pride Alliance of Pitman for all that they do and tonight I would like to thank the Rainbow Room at the Renaissance Village Youth Center. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Dawn and Avery over the past couple of years. Two of my daughters regularly attend the Rainbow Room and I am thankful that the youth in our town have a safe space where they know they will be welcomed and accepted. In addition to resources for youth, they also have sessions for young adults. They meet on Thursday nights and more information can be found on the social media accounts of the Renaissance Village or at renvillage.org.

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The Planning and Zoning Board met on June 20 at 7:00 p.m. The public hearing for the Redevelopment Plan for the former Sony property was held at the meeting. The study was completed by the Borough Planner, Tim Kernan. The Board passed a resolution to make the former Sony property a Condemnation Redevelopment Area.

Sustainable Pitman

Sustainable Pitman is having their Pop-up Park on July 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Ballard Park. They will have some electric vehicles on display and other projects the committee is working on.

Construction Office

The Construction Office collected \$830.00 in Miscellaneous fees during the month of May. The office also collected \$666.00 in Registrar fees in April, and \$697.00 in May.

Clean Communities Grant

If any non-profit group is interested in applying for a Clean Communities Grant, you can print the application from the Borough's website and drop it off at Borough Hall.

Councilman Kelly

Historic Commission

On June 9, 2022, the Historic Commission met, reviewed, and approved five applications.

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee met on June 16, 2022. There was further discussion regarding the E/V charging stations, installing shades in the Theatre Avenue park, and possible locations for new businesses.

The *Grow with Pitman* brochure and video is just about finished.

Public Works

Public Works statistics for the month of June:

- Ten loads of trash collected totaling 129.99 tons
- Six loads of recycling collected totaling 25.27 tons
- Brush collected totaled 130 yards
- Repaired street signs
- Twenty hours spent cleaning the tops of storm drains
- Dropped off four trucks to residents for yard debris clean-up
- Inspections were completed for the recycling compliance

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. 121, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Opposing the Passage of Proposed Legislation (S-2103) That Would Authorize Conversion of Certain Office Parks and Retail Centers to Mixed Use

Resolution No. 122, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Urging the Passage of Proposed Legislation (S-330) That Will Restore Energy Tax Receipts (ERT) to the Borough of Pitman

Resolution No. 123, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting the Recommendation of the Borough of Pitman Combined Planning and Zoning Board and Designating the Property Known as 400 N. Woodbury Road, Block 138 Lot 1, to be a Condemnation Redevelopment Area

Resolution No. 124, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Release of the Maintenance Guarantee Provided by Katherine

Andrews for a Project Affecting a Parcel Known as 300 Grandview Avenue, Block 88 Lot 4 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman

Resolution No. 125, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Resolution No. 112, 2022 Authorizing IN REM Foreclosure Tax Sale Certificate #18-00008 for the Property Designated as 125 Tenth Avenue, Block 22, Lot 38 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman

Resolution No. 126, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding One (1) New Backyard Chicken Pilot Program License to the Property Located at 159 Cedar Avenue, Block 187 Lot 28 in the Borough of Pitman – License No. 001

Resolution No. 127, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding One (1) New Backyard Chicken Pilot Program License to the Property Located at 135 Cedar Avenue, Block 187 Lot 22 in the Borough of Pitman – License No. 002

Resolution No. 128, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving an “Outdoor Eating Facilities Without BYO Addendum” Permit for Martini’s on Broadway, 47 S. Broadway in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester

Resolution No. 129, 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 Property Maintenance

Resolution No. 130, 2022 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Issue Written Notice that the Deed Restriction for 122 Twelfth Avenue, Known as Block 13 Lot 25 on the Tax Map, Has Been Satisfied

Motion: Kelly

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

The following Resolutions were added to the Agenda following discussion in the Work Session Closed Meeting:

Resolution No. 131, 2022 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Reclassification of Pitman Police Department Part-time Patrol Officer Sebastian Leon to Full-time Patrol Officer, Effective July 6, 2022

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 132, 2022 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for One (1) Full-Time Patrol Officer and Two (2) Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) to Fill the Open Positions in the

Borough of Pitman Police Department

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

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: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event Permit

Event: Movie Day at Summer Playground

Dates: July 5, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Pitman Parks & Recreation Summer Playground Program

Contact Person: Laurie Boyle & Melissa Bianchini

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Amend Event Permit

The Event Permit Application approved on June 27, 2022 for the Parks and Recreation Department’s Summer Concert Series was amended to include additional concerts on July 7, 2022 and on September 8, 2022.

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Raffle License Applications

Organization: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Date and Time: August 31, 2022, September 1, 2022 – September 3, 2022; 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Location: Annual Labor Day Carnival on PHS property, Linden, and Edgemoor Avenues

Types of Raffles: Off Premises: Big 50/50

On Premises: Nightly 50/50

On Premises: Prizes

Non-Draw: Wheels and Skill

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Absent

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Milward

Second: Weng

Time 8:30 p.m.

Emma Rentzel, 522 Grandview Avenue

I have some concerns and hopefully some proposed solutions.

I've been trying to stay involved in local decisions by watching Council Meetings from my dorm room. I've been becoming involved with the Young Democrats of Pitman. What I think is the shared feeling among young Pitman residents is that we feel a really big disconnect between the age groups of 19 - 25 and the representatives of Pitman.

So I wanted to call attention to the fact that I think a lot of people who have graduated from Pitman, almost every queer person and person of color that I grew up with, leaves Pitman immediately if they can. This is sad to see. Some people go that could make some really great changes here and do some great things for Pitman. I would like to highlight why this is happening and see if we can work towards some solutions.

One of the big things that I've been thinking about, and with speaking with other youth in Pitman, is that a lot of the things that we have that are accessible to us are not things that our representatives are always eager to use. For example, things the residents use such as social media platforms where they speak out against queer people, people of color, the hateful things that happen in town, that I'm sure our representatives do not reflect when it comes to our town. This is what our young people are seeing more than anything because they may not be quick to reach out to a representative and to come to a Council Meeting because that is just not what's on our mind. This is what is not accessible to them.

So what our young people are seeing are what our residents might put online and what people who just want to be fiery and speak their minds put online. Young people might not feel welcome here because that's what is accessible to them; that is what they see. I think we feel a big disconnect between what the town actually feels and what we are seeing everywhere.

So when I think a lot of queer young people like myself say that the silence hurts more than just actually coming out, saying what you feel, it may now be actual silence from you. I saw a lot of you at the Pride event and I really appreciate it, but I think there just needs to be more coming to our ground, because we don't see that all the time. And I think that's why its perceived as silence. So I just think that if there was a way that we can start reaching out to that age group that slips through the cracks. There is a lot we do with our school aged kids and high school kids, but not that age group of 18 to 25, when people decide whether they want to stay here. I think everyone should feel welcomed enough and love their hometown to be able to stay here. I want people to start staying here.

As this years' Miss Pitman I really felt this urge to represent people and try to make sure that people felt welcome to be here and I think it would be really great if we start moving to reach out to these people and reach out to what's accessible to them. I also wanted to thank the Pride Alliance for the amazing event and to thank Officer Khoury and the Police Department for the way they managed Pride this year, it was really great. I'm not sure if

anyone has any thoughts on this?

Councilman Weng – What are your thoughts?

Emma - I think that it's important for the Council to start coming out on social media as a united front. I think we see a really big imbalance in who is being represented online and who's not, and who is reaching out to people and who is not. You are all amazing, accessible through email and phone numbers, but my generation is not really quick to be reaching out that way, so maybe if Council started to do things as a united front. For example, not a lot of people my age know about the Council Meetings because we are not on the websites to figure it out. I would like to see Council have an Instagram site, as juvenile as it may sound. Everything I did for high school and even college has a page on Instagram. I can go on the page I want and see when and where events and times are. I just think its time for Council to have a united front and say yes, we support, yes, this is how we feel, or no, we don't support those who are being hateful online.

Mayor Raze – I appreciate you mentioning this again, the social media and the hate speech on social media, because it has become rampant, and it does present an image that there is constantly this divide. Anybody who comes to a Council Meeting can see that most things we vote on, everybody votes the same, and I consider this Council to be a wonderful Council. We will bring back things from the past like when we got together in the symbolic sitting down and breaking bread after a reorganization meeting and presenting a united front.

Yes, we could do a better job with social media. I think I personally would love to lean on our representatives from the Youth Advisory Council who spoke up about that and about starting some of these social media pages. Maybe that away we can get some of the information out, and vice versa from the youth.

Councilman Mazzola – In the meetings with the Youth Council it's been typically thought that the Youth Council presents to the Borough, and the Borough lifting them forward. But maybe it needs to be the other way around.

Chief McAteer, 110 S Broadway

I know I have to speak to Council, but my message is also for those behind me.

I've heard over the last couple of weeks, about six times, how possibly the police are a touchy subject between the Pride Alliance and maybe other groups that exist. I've made myself completely vulnerable, I've put myself out there since I've been the Chief of Police. I worked with the Task Force, Mr. Grillo, and the DEI Committee. At this point, I've got to say that the Police Department is working extremely hard, from myself on down, to correct any mistakes that we may have ever made, and to correct any mistakes that we may make, but mostly to eliminate those mistakes, so that moving forward we can have open dialog, be respectful, be authentic, transparent, all the right words. I'm not sure that we haven't been that way in my thirty years being with the Police Department, but I can't speak for those who may be underserved. It's important to me that this community understands that we are working very hard to do everything we can. We are very proud of Officer Khoury and Officer Stefanopolus, the sergeants, and corporals, right on down. I have to say, they are only here because of one reason, and that's our hiring process, and the support that they get from the Pitman Police Administration. We hire them understanding who they were, what they were about, and where they come from. I hope the community can see that and respect it. I need to make a statement and I don't want to put in on Facebook at this moment. I want to say that we are here for everybody is this community without a doubt. If we are not showing that for some reason, please see me. If you are afraid to step into the Police Department, send me an email, I will meet you anywhere. I will sit with anybody in this room and outside this room and talk about any perceived problem that we may have. I really, truly, think that it is perceived, and if I am wrong about that I want it corrected.

Mayor Razzo – I think the message is that, at least what I’ve heard and I don’t speak for anyone else here, the message that I heard is maybe in other areas this is something that may not have been acceptable or looked on the same way as it has been here.

I’m going to go back for one second, this goes all the way back to shortly after the murder of George Floyd and we had several diverse groups speak in Pitman and at one of those events I heard one of the organizers who was a young person from Pitman who said, “I never personally had a problem here, but that doesn’t exist everywhere.”

Councilman Weng – The Pitman Police Department does an amazing job, which is known county-wide.

Mike Grillo, 155 West Avenue

I brought pictures for everyone to see why this happens, amazing young people just spending time together, all comfortable and secure, and this picture would have never happened three years ago.

One of the best things I ever had was we left that meeting last June and the Chief was giving out big Chief hugs to people who were upset. There are some communities that have issues with how the police present themselves. So when we mention that we don’t have that here, we wouldn’t have these events without them, and we love having them there. In our town it’s a non-issue. I think it’s about what a good job he does and it’s not a thing to worry about. He is an amazing guy; he is very empathetic.

I want to end with social media. It is a thing, and when we talk about the silence, you don’t know what you don’t hear. We had an amazing event in town, the businesses all got together. Without social media that might not have happened. Pride Day or Pride Month might not have happened. I think with the younger people that’s what they are looking for.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng
Time 8:50 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Adjournment

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

Second: Mazzola

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O’Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator