

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

Call to Order

Time: 8:05 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

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 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 Razzo: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Council Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2022

Motion: James

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Councilwoman Milward read the following report:

Office of Emergency Management

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, the Office of Emergency Management met to discuss severe weather and other disaster protocols. OEM wants to remind our citizens that as spring and summer approach, so does the potential for severe weather and other types of disasters. We ask everyone to connect to FEMA.READY.GOV to receive alerts and obtain essential information on how to keep your family safe. This site has information for the public on all types of disasters that will help you protect your home and family. Please browse the pages and prepare an emergency plan for your family.

We would also like to remind the public that Pitman's Office of Emergency Management utilizes the fire sirens as a mechanism to alert the public to the potential of a tornado or other severe weather conditions near Pitman. If you hear the siren making a long blast for three minutes, it indicates a tornado in our area and you should take cover in the lowest level of your home.

Pitman Police Department

The Pitman Police Department Bike Unit will be seen patrolling throughout the borough as the weather begins to warm. The Bike Unit prioritizes businesses, Pitman Grove, and park areas. The NJ Safe Passing Law went into effect on March 1 and will provide all motorists with clear, enforceable guidelines about when and how to pass the most vulnerable on our roads by slowing down, moving over if possible, and if not, passing no less than four feet from pedestrians.

Chief McAteer was sworn into the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee by Mayor Razze this past Thursday evening, March 10, at the beginning of the committee's first meeting of 2022.

Detective Barbetta attended Interview Techniques, Roadside Advanced Training on March 1. Annual Recertification Training for the entire Pitman Police Department is ongoing. Two officers a month are recertified. So far in 2022, we have six officers who have completed recertification. The Pitman Police Department is currently in the process of completing the first of two required yearly firearms training sessions. The training also includes Use of Force and Capstun training.

Pitman Fire Company

Fire Company #1

Pitman Fire Company #1 held their Annual Ladies Night Banquet on March 12. It was amazing to see our heroes and their spouses honored. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and service to our community.

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 located at Pitman Fire Company #1. All are welcome.

Highland Chemical Engine Company

The Highland Chemical Engine Company Giant 50/50 Drawing will be held on May 7 at Bogeys Café. For additional information on how to obtain your 50/50 ticket, please visit Highland's Facebook page.

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, or just come to the station any Tuesday evening after 7:00 p.m.

Both Highland and Pitman Fire Company #1 would like to recognize the students at the Pitman Middle School's "Kindness Matters Krew" for their act of kindness and their appreciation letters that were delivered to the fire departments. Thank you for contributing and leading to a more positive community.

The Pitman Fire Department is always looking for members to participate in the Junior Program. They are continuing to grow their program and have three new applications that are currently being processed. Over the last month, they have engaged in team building skills as well as preparing to take their Firefighter Proficiency Test, which will allow members over the age of 16 to respond to Active Calls for Service. 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 Senior Outreach Committee is holding their first event of 2022 on Friday, March 25 from 12:00 p.m.-2:30 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 at (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 read the following report:

At the last Council meeting, in my Council Report I spoke a little bit about one of Pitman's most famous residents, John Wallace. During the course of my report I made a slip of the tongue and referred him as the first African America Justice to the New Jersey Supreme Court. The very next morning after viewing the live stream, I got an email from one of our excellent public school teachers Laurie Boyle, and she reminded me, and I knew this because I've seen the portrait, that James Coleman not John Wallace was the first African American Justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Councilman Mazzola

Finance and Administration

The Borough held two successful events this past Saturday. In the morning we held a rabies clinic where fifty-nine vaccines were administered to dogs and cats over the duration of the clinic. In the afternoon we had a document shredding event where over 2,000 pounds of paper were shredded onsite.

Both of these events had an excellent turnout considering the weather that we experienced that day which started as rain, changed to freezing rain, and eventually snow! Thank you to Municipal Clerk O'Donnell and her entire team for organizing this event and to the Public Works team for hosting! I attended both and was impressed with the teams onsite.

A special thank you to Beth Ruhl for coordinating with the State of New Jersey to confirm record disposition in the Borough and to Nancy Yurick and the Public Works employees who assisted with the transfer of records from Borough Hall to the Public Works garage, allowing us to properly dispose of documents during the event.

Pitman Board of Education

Congratulations to the entire Pitman High School Drama Association led by Renee Post and Patti Perez for a successful weekend of "Rodger's & Hammerstein's Cinderella"! The show featured a small but mighty cast and crew of under twenty students and a large group of enthusiastic "Littles", drawing big crowds to each show. Once again Pitman High School has demonstrated the strength of its arts programs!

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Construction Office

During the month of January the Construction Office processed forty-seven permits, twenty-four certificates, and performed 101 inspections. Fees collected totaled \$9,180.00.

Sustainable Pitman

Sustainable Pitman met on Tuesday, February 24, 2022, where discussion centered on getting word out to residents about the plastic bag ban that will go into effect on May 4. The members also discussed the creation of a bike trail that will link the future dinosaur park in Mantua with Uptown Pitman and return to Ceres Park in Mantua.

Backyard Chicken Pilot Program

Applications are now being taken to participate in the Backyard Chicken Pilot Program. You must be approved and your yard and coop inspected by the Backyard Chicken Pilot Program Committee to be permitted to house up to four chickens.

Councilperson James read the following report:

Parks & Recreation

Just a reminder that T-Ball and Spring Tennis registrations are both live on the Borough Website. https://www.pitman.org/departments/parks___recreation/programs/spring.php

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber met for its monthly meeting on March 7 and would like to specifically thank Chief McAteer for addressing issues of public safety within the business district and best practices for interacting with the Police Department. We appreciate his time and his willingness to be a resource to the Chamber.

We are currently working to reinstate grants for businesses to provide reimbursement for facade improvements and social media consulting. More information will be provided once the grant application window has been determined.

On Tuesday, March 22, Merryman's will partner with the Pitman Revitalization Corporation to host a dining night from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from that evening will benefit the Lori Poisker Scholarship Fund. We encourage everyone to support this event and the scholarship it funds.

Registration for the Spring Craft Show has been stellar. The event is nearly sold out.

McCowan Memorial Library

During the month of February, 2947 people visited the McCowan Memorial Library and there were 101 internet users. There were twenty-five children's programs with 143 people in attendance.

The Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion had their first meeting on Thursday, March 10. We elected officers and chose our subcommittees. Congratulations to the newly elected officers, Chairperson Alexandra Oasin, Vice-Chairperson Corey Monteleone-Haught, and Secretary Rebecca Moody. It is a great group of volunteers and I am excited to be working with them.

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

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee met and discussed electric vehicle charging stations. The members are working on an application for a grant to purchase and install E/V charging stations in the Borough.

Historic Commission

The Historic Commission discussed the rehabilitation projects scheduled for the Grove Auditorium. There is concern that there may not be enough money in the budget and bonds to complete the projects. Six Historic Applications were approved for properties located in the Historic District.

Department of Public Works

Water and Sewer Division

The Water and Sewer Division purchased a new fire hydrant to be installed on Woodland Avenue across from Harmon Field. The hydrant is being installed to try to stop the iron build up that is occurring in the water main. There currently is no hydrant between Elm Avenue and Oak Avenue along Woodland and the new hydrant will allow the main to be flushed more thoroughly and more often. Pioneer Pipe will be doing the work on behalf of the Borough.

A property on Washington Avenue had their water evaluated after a resident complaint, and it tested high for iron. Water and Sewer Division employees have flushed the system a few times and are working to find a solution for that homeowner.

New Business

Resolution No. 64, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman Approving an Emergency Temporary Resolution Prior to Final Adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Resolution No. 65, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough of Pitman Combined Planning and Zoning Board to Conduct a Preliminary Investigation to Establish a Condemnation Redevelopment Area Within the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Resolution No. 66, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Schaefer Fireworks for a Fourth of July Fireworks Display

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to PO #22524; approves all other items on Bill List

Councilwoman Milward: Abstains to PO #81266; approves all other items on Bill List

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Raffle License Application

Applicant: Knights of Columbus #6247

Type of Raffle: 50/50

Date and Time: June 9, 2022; 8:00 p.m.

Location of Drawing: 161 Pitman Avenue

Contact Person: Michael Martorano

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 Razzo _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Coffee Trailer Reveal

Date & Time: March 19, 2022; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Hallowed Grounds Coffee

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 Razzo _____

Approval is contingent upon providing the Borough of Pitman with copies of the Business Registration, vehicle insurance, and Satisfactory Board of Health Certificate.

Event: Football and Cheer Registration

Date & Time: March 31, 2022; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
April 2, 2022; 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers

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 Razzo _____

***Event: Live Music**

Date & Time: April 1, 2022 – October 2, 2022

Wed. & Thurs.; 5pm - 9pm Fri. 5pm – 10pm Sat. & Sun. 10am – 10pm

Location: Ballard Park at Broadway and Pitman Ave.

Sponsor: Merryman’s Pub

Contact Person: Bill Merryman

Event Permit was tabled until the March 28, 2022, Formal Meeting.

Event: Egg Scramble

Date & Time: April 9, 2022; 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Rain date: April 16, 2022

Location: Shertel Park

Sponsor: Pitman Recreation

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Event: Fourth Friday Event

Date & Time: May 2022 – October 2022; 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park, Ballard Ave., Theatre Ave., and Sidewalks on Broadway

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Jenny Mazzola

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain

Councilwoman Milward: Yes
Mayor Razzo _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Town-wide Yard Sale

Date & Time: June 4, 2022; 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
September 24, 2022; 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Sunset Auditorium

Sponsor: Pitman Recreation

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

***Event: Community Brunch in the Park**

Date & Time: June 11, 2022; 6am – 4pm Time includes set-up and clean up
Event 8am – 2pm

Location: Ballard Park and Ballard Ave.

Sponsor: Pride Alliance of Pitman

Contact Person: Michael Grillo

Event Permit was tabled until the March 28, 2022, Formal Meeting.

Event: Thursday Night Pop-up Parks

Date & Time: June 16, 2022 – August 11, 2022; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Approved contingent upon providing the Borough of Pitman with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured, and coordination of musical entertainment with Merryman's Pub.

Event: Sunday Evening Church Services

Date & Time: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022; 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium

Sponsor: Pitman United Methodist Church; Pitman Camp Meetings

Contact Person: Thomas Bennett

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Time: 8:37 p.m.

Jim Pierpont, 23 Crafton Avenue - Regarding Ordinance 23-1.3(a)(b)(c), Mr. Pierpont said that Council should either enforce the ordinance or amend the ordinance with less stipulations. However, he said that he does not think the application process should be changed. In addition to the Zoning Officer, he said that the Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Safety Officer should be included as officials who sign the application after their respective inspections.

Mr. Pierpont said that he noticed that when Atlantic City Electric replaced the pole in front of Mannino's Pizzeria, the brick pavers were not returned to the sidewalk. They remain stacked at the curb.

Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue – Mr. Madison spoke in regard to closing Ballard Avenue during public events. He said that he is not in agreement as it creates the loss of many parking spots that are needed for visitors to the Uptown businesses.

Sandy Keller, W. Holly Avenue – Ms. Keller said that the cost and volume statistics for solid waste collection and recycling have not been announced at recent meetings. She also asked how the Borough can improve the efficiency of our recycling collection and stop residents from putting plastic bags into the recycling cart as trash.

Councilman Kelly said that he will check on getting this information for the next meeting.

Mayor Razze said that how the Borough gets better at recycling is something that our Environmental Commission has been trying to figure out for years. The Borough sends out literature that says what you can recycle, and then it changes. It is a constant battle. Councilman Weng said from his experience, people just don't care, and Council President Fitzpatrick said that the plastic bag ban taking effect this spring should help.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng

Second: Milward

Time: 8:48 p.m.

Resolution No. 63, 2022 authorizing a Closed Meeting for Personnel Retirement and Pending Litigation between the Borough and NJDEP/Frank J. Fazio & Sons, Inc. was approved in the Work Session Meeting. Time constraints caused the Closed Meeting to be moved to the Formal Meeting.

Motion to enter into a Closed Meeting: Milward

Second: Mazzola

Time: 8:48 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

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

Motion to return to an Open Meeting: Weng
Time: 9:15 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

As a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting, the following action was taken by Council upon returning to an Open Meeting.

Resolution No. 67, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing and Permitting Borough of Pitman Public Works, Highway Division Employee, Theodore Armstrong the Use of Sick and Vacation Time in Anticipation of Retirement from Employment with the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County

Motion: Kelly

Second: James

Roll Call:

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

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

Adjournment

Motion: Weng
Time: 9:18 p.m.

Second: Milward

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

