

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

Call to Order

Time: 8:10 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

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 6, 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: Absent
Mayor Razze: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Proclamation

The Borough of Pitman Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee recognizing the Land Acknowledgement Proclamation of the Lenni-Lenape Native Americans. In recognition of this Acknowledgement, and recognizing that November is Native American Heritage Month, Mayor Razze read a Special Proclamation into the record.

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Council Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2022

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: James

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Councilman Weng

Public Property

In working with Administrator O'Donnell, it was determined that heaters in the Public Works garage needed repair. One heater that was not operating and another heater in need of repair were replaced. Replacing both heaters, which were old, was less expensive than doing one heater at a time.

Councilman Mazzola

Finance and Personnel

Election Day was November 8. Thank you to all the Poll Workers and Clerk O'Donnell for their efforts in ensuring a smooth election process. Congratulations to Council President Fitzpatrick and Councilwoman James on their re-elections to Borough Council. Congratulations also to Jen Evans and Rob Uyehara on their efforts in the election and their commitment to the Borough.

Council President Fitzpatrick

Clean Communities

How Global performed a Clean Communities clean-up at Betty Park on October 29, 2022. Ten participants attended the cleanup. If any nonprofit organization is interested in a Clean Communities Grant, you may print the application from the Borough website and send or email to me or drop it off at Borough Hall.

Construction Office

The Construction Office collected \$12,321.00 in permit fees and performed 120 inspections during the month of September.

Combined Planning and Zoning Board

The next Planning Board meeting is on November 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Vacant/Abandoned Properties

The Borough is selling additional tax lien certificates on December 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.

Congratulations to Vanessa and thanks to Jen and Rob for their hard work on their campaign.

Councilperson James

2022 Liaison: Parks and Recreation, McCowan Memorial Library Board, Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce; Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Congratulations to Council President John Fitzpatrick on his re-election. Thank you to Robert Uyehara and Jen Evans for running. I have no doubt that you both will continue to do wonderful things for the town that we all love.

Parks and Recreation

Make sure to check out the Winter Sports sign-ups on the Borough website, including travel basketball!

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Thanksgiving weekend will be amazing in Uptown Pitman! The fun starts Saturday with a Small Business Saturday Celebration and the annual Pitman Bucks Sale from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Borough Hall, along with more fun and entertainment throughout the day. The celebration continues on Sunday with brunch, shopping, and Santa riding into town to officially start the holiday season. The Santa Parade starts at 5:00 p.m. along Broadway!

Pitman Winter Village

The Pitman Winter Village will take place on December 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. along Ballard Avenue. There are still vendor spaces available. Interested applicants can visit uptownpitman.com or email Event Coordinator, Kara Knauss, at info@uptownpitman.com for more information.

McCowan Memorial Library

Thanks to everyone who donated candy, volunteered, and participated in the 2022 Pitman Halloween Parade!

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Check out the Borough of Pitman website for an updated list of DEI resources. Click the “Resources” tab. https://www.pitman.org/elected_officials/task_force_on_diversity_and_inclusion.php

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. If you would like to meet in person, I hold unofficial office hours at Endgrain Coffee Bar on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Councilman Kelly

Historic Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission received one application, which was approved.

Public Works

The Borough's recycling report for October:

- Eighteen loads (73.85 tons) of single stream recycling at a cost of \$7,067.35. Unfortunately, there were fourteen plastic bags in the collection, which cost the Borough \$700.00 in fines.
- One load of metal (1.58 tons) delivered to Matteo & Sons for a profit of \$237.00.
- Mulch and brush (250 cubic yards) hauled to various locations at a cost of \$22.50.

Solid waste collection for October:

- Twenty-two loads (286.66 tons) to Wheelabrator at a cost of \$22,580.66.
- Two loads to the Gloucester County Landfill at a cost of \$1,953.49.

The total cost of disposal was \$24,534.15.

- Leaves collected: 1433 yards
- Ten truckloads of bulk pickup
- Thirty curbside inspections of recycling cans.

Mayor Razzo congratulated Council President Fitzpatrick and Councilperson James on their re-election to Borough Council. Mayor Razzo also thanked Jen Evans and Rob Uyehara for their dedication to the Borough and encouraged anyone who might be interested in serving the Borough in any capacity to become involved. Mayor Razzo commented that the Borough is very fortunate to have so many residents that are willing to serve in some capacity, and that those involved individuals make Pitman the great community that it is.

Mayor Razzo read Police Chief McAteer's report.

Police Department

The Pitman Police Department and Director Milward would like to thank all the candidates who came out for the written and physical assessment exams for the open positions within the PPD.

The following Pitman Police Department officers will be attending the listed trainings or have completed training:

November 7 – 11: PO Khoury attended the International Chiefs of Police Association (IACP) Women in Law Enforcement Leadership Training.

November 7 – 11: PO Stefanopoulos attended Methods of Instruction (MOI) at the Gloucester County Police Academy.

Chief McAteer would like to thank Cpl. Decker for his willingness to be added to the roster at the Gloucester County Police Academy as an instructor. Also, he is to be congratulated for being accepted as an instructor by the Academy.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 14, 2022 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council Amending Ordinance No. 11, 2021 Establishing the Salaries and Wages for Employees of the Borough of Pitman for the Year 2022 and Forward
Second Reading - Public Hearing

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Motion to open to the public: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Time: 8: 25 p.m.

No public comment on Ordinance 14, 2022.

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

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Absent
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.

Mayor Razzo noted that Resolution No. 207, 2022 will be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Resolution No. 203, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Sale of Police K9 “Ranger” to His Handler, Police Officer Ernest J. Parker, III

Resolution No. 204 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes

Resolution No. 205, 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 Certificates

Resolution No. 206, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Endorsing the 2022 Best Practices Inventory for the State of New Jersey

Resolution No. 208, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Jee-Hye Camp as Part-time Library Assistant for the McCowan Memorial Library

Resolution No. 209, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Advertisement and Procurement of Proposals for a Concession Agreement for Advertising Space on the Borough’s Municipal Sign

Resolution No. 210, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving a Closed Meeting

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

Contract Negotiations – AFSCME Local 3303B and Employment within the Borough

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: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Absent
Mayor Razzo _____

Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo noted that Resolution No. 203, 2022 is to authorize Officer Parker and his family to keep Police K9 Ranger upon Ranger's retirement from service.

Resolution No. 207, 2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving a ____ % Salary Increase for All Current Non-Contractual Employees of the Borough

Councilman Mazzola advised that the Borough has three groups of contracted employees; 2 groups at 3%, one group at 2.5%. Historically, the Borough has given the noncontract employees the rate increases of the contracted employees. Because there are two different contracted rates this year, his recommendation is to use the 3% amount for the noncontract employees. Council President Fitzpatrick and Councilman Kelly both agreed this is fair, and Councilman Weng noted that this has been the traditional practice.

Motion by Mazzola to approve Resolution 207, 2022 as amended, approving a 3% salary increase for all current non-contractual employees of the Borough.

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilperson James: Yes
Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Abstain from #52575 through #52577 and #18702, Yes to the rest as presented.
Councilman Weng: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Absent
Mayor Razzo _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Holiday Display, Visit Santa, and Trolley Rides

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date and Time: December 1, 2022 – December 23, 2022; 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park

Contact Person: Ron Brown

Councilman Weng noted that approval would be contingent on Proof of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured. A Sign Application has also been submitted for small event signs, and he recommends approval of the sign permit also.

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes
Councilwoman Milward: Absent
Mayor Razzo _____

Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Selling House Tour Tickets

Applicant: Woman's Club of Pitman

Date and Time: December 3, 2022; 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Borough Hall Lobby

Contact Person: Elaine Lore

Clerk O'Donnell noted that approval would be contingent on Proof of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Event: Pitman Bucks Sale

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date and Time: November 26, 2022; 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Borough Hall Lobby

Contact Person: Jenny Mazzola

Clerk O'Donnell noted that approval would be contingent on Proof of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Motion: Weng

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Event: Small Business Saturday/Sunday

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date and Time: November 26, 2022; 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

November 27, 2022; 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Park and Theatre Avenue

Contact Person: Jenny Mazzola

Motion: Weng *contingent on Proof of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.*

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo _____

Event: Holiday Sing-Along

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date and Time: Thursday, December 15, 2022; 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium

Contact Person: Vanessa James

Councilman Weng noted that there is also a Facilities Use Application for the Grove Auditorium in the packet and he recommends approval of that also.

Motion: Weng *contingent on Proof of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.*

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Raffle License Application

Applicant: Pitman Athletic Association

Date and Time: December 31, 2022; 12:00 p.m.

Location: Heroes Field, Alcyon Lake Park

Contact Person: Christian Dutil

Motion: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Absent

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: Mazzola

Time 8:38 p.m.

Lora Dale, 302 Edgemoor Avenue – Ms. Dale addressed Council to request that an ordinance be enacted to prevent parking in front of her property. Ms. Dale has individuals who habitually park on the street in front of her house, and their vehicles interfere with mail delivery, trash pickup, and leaf collection. Ms. Dale compared the proposed ordinance to similar ordinances used for fire hydrants. She would request that the ordinance prohibit parking that interferes with her receiving Borough services. Ms. Dale did advise that today, the Borough Public Works Department sent out a second truck to collect her trash. She has tried putting her cans out very early or the night before, but the vehicle parks so close to the cans that the truck cannot access her trash cans. Ms. Dale lives directly across from the Pitman High School, and it is the same teacher parking in front of her house. Clerk O’Donnell noted that she did reach out to the School Administrator today and was told that the teacher(s) who are parking in front of Ms. Dale’s house will be told to park in the lot provided for teachers.

Kim Russell, 530 Wayne Avenue – Ms. Russell addressed Council on the widespread excessive vehicle speeding in the Borough. Ms. Russell expressed her very deep concerns on the speeding in town. She has spoken with the Police Department and was advised that the traffic engineer would look at the issue. Ms. Russell believes the speeding has to do with Rowan University. She asked what can be done. She does not think that speed bumps are a solution but would ask for additional 25 mph speed limit signs. Ms. Russell advised that she does not see a lot of police officers on the streets. Ms. Russell advised she has the make, model, and license plate number of two of the repeat speeding vehicles and has given this information to the Police Department.

Mayor Razze asked Chief McAteer to comment on this. Mayor Razze noted that the “traffic engineer” is probably the Department Traffic Safety Officer. He is sure that officers are out on the streets.

Chief McAteer advised that police officers may be spread thin, but they are out on the streets. Motorists use the

side streets between Woodbury-Glassboro Road and Delsea Drive as cut through streets. Radar is used regularly, as is the traffic board.

Ms. Russell asked if the President of Rowan University could be contacted to advise students that they must obey posted speed limits. Ms. Russell did acknowledge that because the engines of these vehicles are loud, it may appear that the vehicles are not traveling as fast as it may appear.

Chief McAteer advised that he will have a sign audit and a speed limit audit done. He speaks regularly with Glassboro Chief Polillo and also regularly with the Harrison Township Police Chief on issues like this. Chief McAteer advised that the Rowan President cannot tell students what roads to use and how to drive. Chief McAteer will keep in touch with Ms. Russell to update her on what is being done.

Lora Dale, 302 Edgemoor Avenue - Ms. Dale asked if anything can be put on the road to capture vehicle information so a violation can be issued. Chief McAteer advised that this is not permitted in New Jersey, and if it could be done, the technology is very expensive. Ms. Dale asked if the Police Department is supplied with information on the vehicle, can a ticket be issued. Chief advised that the Police Department cannot issue the ticket; the individual would have to sign the ticket. Councilman Weng noted that it would be difficult for the individual to successfully establish the speed of the vehicle. Chief McAteer agreed with Councilman Weng on this point and did note that many times, the vehicles are not traveling as fast as it appears.

Chief McAteer, 420 West Avenue – Chief McAteer addressed Council regarding the earlier meeting on legalized marijuana.

Chief made several points:

- Permitted marijuana licensing in the Borough will cost the Police Department because of enforcement costs – overtime, scheduling, more court time, etc. Small towns have to enforce using police patrol, and that will increase costs.
- There will be an increase in the amount of litigation that results from enforcement.
- There will be an increase in social costs in terms of the crime rate and the effect on youth.
- Chief asked that any information on the topic be obtained from a neutral source.
- Statistics show that vehicle crashes have decreased, but the number of fatal crashes from combined marijuana and alcohol use have increased.
- Surrounding communities may approve these licenses, and Pitman will feel the effects.
- He is concerned that at the earlier meeting, there was no discussion of the potential social costs of licensing marijuana.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng
Time 9:15 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Miscellaneous

Mayor Razzo advised all that registration for the Santa Parade is open until November 18.

Mayor Razzo noted that the November 8, 2022 General Election was Clerk O'Donnell's last election as Borough Clerk and thanked her for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Borough.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter a closed meeting: Fitzpatrick
Time 9:17 p.m.

Second: James

Motion to return to an open meeting: Weng
Time: 9:55 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

No action was taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Weng
Time: 9:55 p.m.

Second: James

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator