

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 8, 2022

Call to Order

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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: Present

Mayor Razze: Present

Borough Redevelopment Attorney Maley: Present

Councilperson James: Present

Councilman Mazzola: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Borough Solicitor Vigilante: Present

Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Weng

Second: James

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Resolution No. 151, 2022 and Ordinance No. 10, 2022

Adopting a Redevelopment Plan for Block 138 Lot 1 and authorizing Planning and Zoning Board review of the Plan.

James Maley, Borough Redevelopment Attorney, addressed Council on the proposed Redevelopment Plan for the former Sony property, Block 138 Lot 1. He explained that by approving Resolution No. 151, 2022, Council is forwarding the Plan to the Borough's Combined Planning and Zoning Board to review for compliance with the Master Plan. Mr. Maley said that while the Planning and Zoning Board review is limited to determining consistency with the Master Plan, the Redevelopment Plan can still be adopted if it is found to be inconsistent. Mr. Maley said that adopting the Redevelopment Plan will allow the Borough to enter into a Redevelopment Agreement with a developer and will also limit certain variances for the property named in the Plan.

Mayor Razze said that there has been a lack of productive use of the property for many years, and Mr. Maley said the goal of adopting the Redevelopment Plan is to give power to Council to facilitate redevelopment that would make the property economically productive once again.

Councilman Weng asked if there has been any response from the owner of the property when informed of the Redevelopment Plan. Council President Fitzpatrick said that there has been no communication from the owner since mid-June.

Miscellaneous

Councilwoman Milward asked to have #83082 (52184) removed from the list of bills to be paid until the necessity of the purchase can be investigated further.

Councilwoman Milward also inquired of the status of the floor replacement project at Pitman Fire Company No. 1.

Motion to close discussion: Weng
Time: 7:10 p.m.

Second: James

New Business

Resolution No. 160, 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 subjects to be discussed at said meeting shall be:

Professional Appointment – Labor Counsel

Glen Lake Settlement

Fazio – NJDEP Settlement

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Milward

Roll Call

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Abstain

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Mazzola

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Kevin Austin, 562 Florence Avenue – Mr. Austin asked Council if the tax rate for 2022 increased or decreased, and he commended Council on not raising municipal taxes this year. He mentioned that sixty percent of the Borough’s tax rate is due to the school budget. He stated his feelings that the residents should be permitted to vote on the school budget and urged Council to request that the School Board come before Council annually and present their budget as they have done in the past. Mayor Razze stated that the Board has always been receptive to coming to meetings and Councilman Mazzola reminded everyone that the Pitman Schools have received dramatic cuts in their State Aid over the last few years.

Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue – Mr. Madison said that he agrees with Mr. Austin that the Board of Education should come in annually to present their budget to Council, and that there should be a push to the New Jersey Legislature to change the law back to where the voters approved the school budget at the polls.

Patrick Rumaker, 41 Simpson Avenue – Mr. Rumaker suggested that if the Board of Education were to have their budget put before the voters, then perhaps Council should be required to have the municipal budget placed on the ballot as well.

Motion to close public portion: Mazzola

Second: Milward

Time: 7:17 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Weng

Second: James

Time: 7:17 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Fitzpatrick

Second: James

Time: 7:35 p.m.

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Weng
Time: 7:35 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator