

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2022

Call to Order

Time: 6:30 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
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

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

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: James
Time: 6:31 p.m.

Second: Weng

2022 Municipal Budget Preparation

Councilman Mazzola reviewed an updated draft of the proposed 2022 Municipal Budget. Most of the appropriations have remained flat from the appropriations of 2021. If there were any increases, they were slight. Salaries covered under labor contracts were entered into the budget with a three percent increase over last year which hopefully will be offset in the general portion of the budget. It is anticipated that Borough CFO Considine will have an idea of the tax rate for Council by mid-February.

Updates to the Veteran's Memorial in Ballard Park

Councilman Weng updated Council on improvements that have been proposed for the Edward J. Campbell War Memorial in Ballard Park. When previously discussed by Council, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6469 in Pitman had not been included. The Garden Club members proposed plans to remove the evergreen hedge surrounding the memorial and replace it with decorative wrought iron style fencing. The Borough's Shade Tree Commissioner has been contacted about the project and agreed that the existing shrubs may not be the most appropriate type for the area and to cut them back would result in them becoming unsightly. Members of the VFW have expressed that they are in favor of the Garden Club removing the shrubs and installing a fence providing that the fence maintains the respectful nature of the memorial and is aesthetically pleasing.

Mayor Razze said he would like Council to receive continued input from the Garden Club as the project moves forward.

Assignment of Agreement for Disposal Facility

Councilman Kelly discussed the addition of Resolution No. 39, 2022 to the Formal Meeting Agenda this evening. The Resolution authorizes the consent of the Borough of Pitman to enter into an Agreement with OMNI Recycling LLC which would allow OMNI Recycling LLC to assign their contractual rights and obligations with the Borough to OMNI Group, who will assume all the present contractual

obligations with the Borough under the Agreement. This Resolution is necessary because Section 11 of the Agreement between OMNI Recycling LLC and the Borough of Pitman, entered into in 2021 pursuant to Resolution No. 40, 2021, does not permit assignments without the express permission of the Borough.

Sewer Bill Credit Request

Councilman Kelly stated that a request was made from the owner of the property located at 120 Tenth Avenue for relief of the water and sewer charges on the fourth quarter 2021 billing. A broken water pipe was discovered in the water supply line to the residence, and the Data Logger Report shows that a continuous flow of water went through the meter between November 8, 2021, and December 15, 2021. The leak went undetected because the break in the line was located after the pit meter in the yard, and before the line entered the home. The water went into the ground and not through the sewer system. Councilman Kelly said that based on the Data Logger Report showing the excess water usage, a credit of \$2963.07 to the sewer bill could be recommended.

Resolution No. 36, 2022 is on the Formal Meeting Agenda for Council's approval this evening.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Weng asked why there is no assignment of a Council Liaison for the Pitman Garden Club and stated his opinion that there should be one because they are a Borough sponsored group and receive funds through an appropriation in the annual Municipal Budget.

Motion to close discussion: James
Time: 7:12 p.m.

Second: Weng

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Mazzola
Time: 7:12 p.m.

Second: Milward

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney reviewed the plans that the Garden Club have for the improvements to the Edward J. Campbell War Memorial in Ballard Park. They include the removal of the existing evergreens and the installation of a three foot high wrought iron style fence and additional flowers to complement the ones planted in the spring and summer. He said that the cost of the fence will be approximately \$3700.00.

Mr. Fortney also said that the Garden Club is interested in planting two pollinator gardens on the Lake Avenue side of Glen Lake. Each garden will be 10' by 20' in size and will be tended by the residents in the Glen Lake area. Mayor Razzo asked for a plan to be submitted to Council before beginning the installation of the gardens.

David Hoh, 101 Colonial Avenue – Mr. Hoh asked if the Borough could check and see if the refund check that was sent by the Borough to his mortgage company has been cashed. He said he is waiting to be refunded by the mortgage company and a substantial amount of time has passed and he would like to verify that the check was received and cashed by the lender.

Jim Pierpont, 23 Crafton Avenue – Mr. Pierpont wondered if Council has had any discussion on taxing liquor sold in the Borough by the drink, such as a local tax of three percent added to the price of every drink sold in the Borough. Borough Solicitor Vigilante said that she will look into Mr. Pierpont's suggestion.

Beth Portocalis, 301 Washington Avenue – Ms. Portocalis asked if the Borough has received any information from the Gloucester County Tax Assessor's Office on the new assessments for Borough

