

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 27, 2023  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:00 PM

Mayor Razze noted that before the Salute to the Flag/Invocation, he would like to mention the passing of two long time Borough residents. Warren Smartwood, a long time chemistry teacher at Pitman High School and Frank Kircher, a 40 + year volunteer with the Borough Fire Department, both recently passed. Mayor Razze expressed his sympathies to the families and asked all to keep them in their prayers.

**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 and Courier Post, posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, and advertised on the Borough of Pitman website.

**Roll Call**

Council President Fitzpatrick: Present  
Councilman Kelly: Present  
Councilwoman Milward: Absent  
Mayor Razze: Present  
Borough Clerk McCafferty: Present

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Minutes from February 27, 2023 and Work Session, Council Minutes and Closed Session Minutes from March 13, 2023

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain from February 27 minutes, yes to the rest

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Mayor Razze: Yes for February 27, 2023 minutes

## **Council Reports**

### **Councilman Mazzola**

#### **Board of Education:**

As you have likely heard, Pitman schools are facing a state aid cut of almost \$1.5M this year. When combined with the \$900k of one time income last year, the district faces a decrease in almost \$2.5M of aid for the 2023-24 school year. Last week NJ Senate bill S3732 was passed unanimously to restore 66% of the cuts (totaling \$103M) in state aid to schools, including \$973k to Pitman. This Thursday, its partner bill, A5328, is expected to pass the NJ Assembly and be signed by the Governor shortly thereafter. This money will help to ease the transition to the new configuration but will not change the plans currently in place.

The current plan in front of the Board is to close WCK Walls School and Kindle school, maintain Memorial School as pre-K through 1st grade, Pitman Middle School would house 2nd through 6th grades, and Pitman High School would include 7th through 12th grades.

Today Board President April Miller and I met with Assemblyman Paul Moriarty and his staff to discuss these bills and the larger topic of school funding. Mrs. Miller was able to present some of the specific challenges that Pitman faces with the current funding formula, including the allocation of aid based on special services.

I would like to thank Mr. Crispin, Mrs. Miller, and the entire Board of Education for their leadership through a challenging time for our district. Pitman's parents, students, and community members have benefitted from having open and frank discussions about these topics at the earliest time possible.

The dates for upcoming meetings are:

School Budget Special Meeting - March 29th 7:00 PM in the PHS Library

Grade Level Configuration - April 4th at 7:00 PM in the PHS Library

If you are unable to attend these meetings, the regular session Board meetings are streamed on their website. I am also available to discuss the latest news and updates with you. I am also happy to bring any concerns you may have to the Board in your absence. You may reach out to me at [adam.mazzola@pitman.org](mailto:adam.mazzola@pitman.org) or text at 856-725-3254.

Mayor Razze encouraged all residents to educate themselves on what is going on with the school district and attend as many meetings as they possibly can.

Councilman Mazzola noted that the goal is to maintain a Pre-K through 12 districts, and the school is working toward that goal.

## **Council Person Fitzpatrick**

No report

## **Councilperson James**

### **Council Report 3-27-23**

#### **Councilperson Vanessa E. James**

#### **Vanessa.James@Pitman.Org**

2023 Liaison: Parks & Recreation, Library Board, Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce & Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

#### **Parks & Recreation**

Parks & Rec will be hosting its annual Egg Scramble on Saturday, April 1st starting at 8:30 a.m. at Shertel Park. Advanced Registration is required and is posted on the Borough Website. There are only a few spots left!

#### **Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce**

Last Monday the Chamber held their first Women in Business Workshop. It was a great night of information gathering from Deputy Commissioner Heather Simmons and sharing ideas between businesswomen. The Chamber is looking forward to making this a more regular event.

Sponsorship opportunities for the Pitman Craft Shows have been announced. Interested businesses can reach out to [craftshows@uptownpitman.com](mailto:craftshows@uptownpitman.com) for more information.

The Lori Poisker fundraiser evening will be held this Thursday at Merryman's Pub from 4pm - 10pm. Dining donations will benefit the scholarship fund - awarded to a senior at PHS with an interest in entrepreneurship.

#### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee**

The next meeting of the DEI Committee will be held on Thursday, April 13th at 7 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

As always, I am available to answer any questions or concerns via email at [vanessa.james@pitman.org](mailto: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 9-9:30 a.m.

## **Councilman Kelly**

For the Public Works Department for the period March 13 through March 23, 10 loads of trash (98.24 tons) was collected and 9 loads, (22.6 tons) of recycling was collected. Eight truckloads of bulk trash were collected, that tonnage was included in the trash total. The Department cleaned the tops of 40 storm drains, performed 30 recycling can inspections, hosted the rabies clinic on March 18, and removed the play yard at Shertel Park.

The Water Department completed 21 water/sewer mark out requests, plunged out 6 sewer stoppages, replaced 2 meter bodies, flushed the hydrants on Hudson Avenue and replaced the water service on Woodbury Glassboro Road.

Mayor Razze asked if there were any additions to the reports – Councilman Kelly noted that paving on Glenmere will be done the week of April 10.

**New Business**

Council President Fitzpatrick read the following Ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 01, 2023 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman Amending the Pitman Code of Ordinances to Repeal Chapter 29; to Adopt a New Chapter 29; to Adopt Flood Hazard Maps; to Designate a Floodplan Administrator; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.**

First Reading – Second Reading/Public Hearing: April 10, 2023

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilperson James presented the Consent Agenda

**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. 68, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Designating April 22, 2023 as Earth Day and Arbor Day**

**Resolution No. 69, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Refund for Tax Sale Certificate Foreclosure Fees**

**Resolution No. 70, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Refund of State Tax Appeal for 2022 Real Estate Taxes**

**Resolution No. 71, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Closed Meeting**

Motion: James

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

**Payment of Bills** (Mazzola)

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain from Order #83967000 and #83968000, yes to the rest

**Event Permit Applications** (Fitzpatrick for Milward)

**Event:** Egg Scramble

**Organization:** Parks & Recreation

**Date and Time:** April 1, 2023 from 8-11am

**Location:** Shertel Park

**Insurance Certificate provided:** NA

**Contact Person:** Vanessa James

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Abstain

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Mayor Razzo: Yes

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Kelly

Time: 8:16 PM

Resident Ryan Budd, 410 North Oak Avenue, advised that he had submitted an Event Permit Application for an event on April 8, and it is not listed on the agenda. Clerk McCafferty advised that she just received the application from the Police Department, and there are several items that need to be addressed. She asked if Mr. Budd would discuss this with her after the meeting, he agreed.

Motion to close the public portion: James

Second: Kelly

Time 8:17 PM

**Closed Session**

Motion to go into Closed Session: Mazzola  
Time: 8:18 PM

Second: James

Motion to re-open Regular Meeting: James  
Time: 8: 25 PM

Second: Kelly

**Resolution No. 72, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Appointing an Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

**Miscellaneous**

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mazzola

Second: James

Time: 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McCafferty, RMC  
Borough Clerk