

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 12, 2023  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:00 pm

Mayor Razze addressed the recent tragedy that has taken place in Pitman. Mayor Razze noted that at this moment, a vigil is taking place at the Methodist Church. The Church is full, with people representing all aspects of the community. The vigil is hosted by the High School group, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Mayor extended his gratitude to that group for putting the event together to enable the community to grieve and support each other, and to support the Rodriguez family. Mayor Razze also extended his thanks to all the agencies that participated in the rescue efforts.

Mayor Razze also noted the passing of former Mayor Michael Hannon, and asked that all keep his family in prayer and thought.

**Salute to the Flag/Invocation – Council President Fitzpatrick.**

Council President Fitzpatrick asked all to remember the Rodriguez family in their prayers.

**Mayor Razze read the 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.

Mayor Razze noted that if anyone has downloaded the agenda that was posted earlier, the agenda has changed. The agenda contains only the items that require action so that member of Council and the public can return to the vigil currently being held.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session and Council Minutes from May 8, 2023  
Work Session and Council Minutes from May 22, 2023

Motion: James

Second: Kelly

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes to May 8, Abstained from May 22.

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: Yes

**New Business**

Councilman Kelly read 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. 87, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Renewal of One Plenary Retail Consumption License to Advance Pitman Investment Group, LLC**

**Resolution No. 88, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Renewal of One Plenary Retail Consumption License to Merryman’s Pub, LLC**

**Resolution No. 89, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Release of Escrow Funds to Vince Gerace**

**Resolution No. 90, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Extending the Chicken Advisory Board Pilot Program for One Year**

**Resolution No. 91, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Promoting Sergeant Jonathan Streater to the Rank of Lieutenant of the Borough of Pitman Police Department**

**Resolution No. 92, 2023 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Promoting Detective Nicholas Barbetta to the Rank of Detective Sergeant of the Borough of Pitman Police Department**

Motion: Kelly

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

**Payment of Bills**

Councilman Weng presented the bills for payment.

Motion: Weng

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

## **Event Permit Applications**

Council President Fitzpatrick presented the Event Permit Applications

**Event:** Garden Tour

Organization: Pitman Garden Club

Date and Time: June 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 11am-4pm

Location: Throughout the Borough

Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**

Contact Person: Guy Groff

**Event:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display

Organization: Pitman Parade Committee

Date and Time: July 1, 2023; at dusk (approx. 9pm)

Location: over Alcyon Park, Betty Park and surrounding roadways

Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**

Contact Person: Michael Razze

**Event:** 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pitman Freedom Race

Organization: Pitman Recreation Department

Date and Time: July 4, 2023; 8:45am start

Location: Streets of Pitman

Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**

Contact Person: Andy Fox

**Event:** Independence Day Parade

Organization: Pitman Parade Committee

Date and Time: July 4, 2023; 9:55am

Location: Streets of Pitman

Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**

Contact Person: Michael Razze

**Event:** Workout Popup

Organization: Studiokey Fitness

Date, Time, Location: Sunset Auditorium – 7/18, 8/5; 7:30am-9:45am; 10/14; 10am-11:15am  
Grove Auditorium – 7/23, 8/20; 7:30am-9:45am

Insurance Certificate provided: **YES**

Contact Person: Kelly Franks

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

**Event:** Yoga Class

Organization: Seeds of Love Yoga

Date and Time: June 24, 2023; 10am-12pm

Location: Ballard Park

Insurance Certificate provided: **NO**

Contact Person: Kristin Hams

Motion: Fitzpatrick, contingent on proof of insurance

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

### **Raffle License Applications**

The Raffle License Application was presented by Council President Fitzpatrick

#### **Type: 50/50 Raffle**

Date: December 7, 2023

Time: 8pm

Location: 161 Pitman Ave

Sponsor: Knights of Columbus #6247 Our Lady of Queen of Peace Council

Contact Person: Michael Martorano

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

#### **Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Weng

Second: Kelly

Time: 8:10 pm

Resident Kyle Castagno, 96 Brookfield Avenue, addressed Council to express his displeasure with the Pride flags that have been permitted by Borough Council to be hung throughout the Borough. Mr. Castagno asked why the event permit application that he submitted was not read aloud. Mr. Castagno stated that the flags are a direct contradiction to the Bible, and do not represent the sentiments of all the taxpayers of Pitman. He has lived in Pitman all his life, and is opposed to these flags. He asked that the flags be removed immediately. Mr. Castagno extensively quoted scripture from the Bible that he believes supports his position on this issue.

Councilperson James noted that Mr. Castagno has made his position on this issue clear.

Mayor Razzo addressed Mr. Castagno's question on his permit application for a protest on this issue. Mayor Razzo advised that Borough Council takes an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and that includes the right to protest. Council has made a policy decision to not vote on protest requests, because the Council does not have the right to refuse any person or group the right to protest. Mayor Razzo stated that Borough Council supports Mr. Castagno's right to protest. Mayor Razzo described the process to have a banner approved. The application is submitted, reviewed by the Police Department and then placed on the agenda. The Borough does not have an application before them to request removal of the banners. If Mr. Castagno submits an application, it will be considered at the June 26 Borough Council meeting.

Mayor Razzo asked Mr. Castagno for his indulgence on this discussion, given the current situation going on at the Methodist Church. Mr. Castagno can hold his peaceful protest at Ballard Park.

Mr. Castagno expressed his concern for the Borough, and hopes that the hate that has been shown to his group does not continue.

Resident Scott McIlvaine, 818 S Broadway. Mr. McIlvaine expressed his concerns on the banners, and asked that Council consider the opinion of all Borough residents on this issue. Other municipalities have found tactful ways to deal with these types of requests, using the American flag to be inclusive. Mr. McIlvaine inquired on the content of the billboard on Woodbury Glassboro Road.

Mayor Razze noted that the billboard is a privately owned billboard, and Council does not control the content. Mr. McIlvaine noted that the word Pitman is used on the board.

Solicitor Vigilante noted that the word Pitman is not copyrighted, and if used to advertise an event in the Borough, it cannot be controlled. Solicitor Vigilante noted that no municipal agency can regulate the content of speech.

Victor Castagno, 23 S Brentwood Avenue, thanked Borough Council on behalf of him and his son for their actions given the recent tragedy. Mr. Castagno stated that he moved here 27 years ago because of the 11 churches in the Borough and what that meant to him as a Christian. He wanted to raise his children in a community that supported his beliefs. He also objects to the banners and signs being displayed. He recognizes the right of everyone to live their life, but does not understand why this has to be publicly displayed. He expressed his concerns on the effect this could have on children.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng  
Time: 8:29 pm

Second: Kelly

**Adjournment**

Motion: Weng  
Time: 8:30 pm

Second: Fitzpatrick

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McCafferty  
Borough Clerk