

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
June 26, 2023  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:00 pm

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

**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.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Minutes from June 12, 2023

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes  
Councilman Kelly: Yes  
Councilwoman Milward: Abstain

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

Mayor Razze took a moment to thank publicly all the agencies that responded to the incident at Alcyon Lake, especially the members of Highland Chemical Engine Company, Pitman Fire Co #1, our Office of Emergency Management, our Police Department and our School District. Mayor Razze also thanked the businesses in town that sent over food and whatever else was needed for the volunteers.

**Special Presentation – Mayor Razze**

Mayor Razze presented the Grand Marshall of the 2023 Independence Day Parade to Jim Fortney. Mayor Razze continued by paying respect to Mr. Fortney for all of his volunteer hours throughout numerous committees and clubs, along with his military service and his long-lived residency in town.

**Proclamation**

Proclamation of LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Mayor Razze thanked the DEI Committee for delaying the reading of this proclamation, as we had an abbreviated meeting prior, so that we could get back to a memorial service that was being held in town.

Mayor Razze read aloud the Proclamation from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee recognizing the month of June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

## **Council Reports**

### **Councilwoman Milward**

Thank you Mayor,

The 2023 Miss Pitman Pageant, will be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pitman High School Auditorium! Tickets are \$15 and now on sale in Borough Hall during regular business hours. They will also be on sale at the PHS auditorium on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-7:30pm as well as the night of the show. Good luck to all of the contestants!

Highland Chemical Engine Company is currently in the beginning stages of their Labor Day Carnival Preparations. They have remained busy through the month of June. During the month of May, Highland responded to 19 calls for service, 3 planned cover assignments and 5 training nights for a total of 19 hours of service. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Highland, feel free to stop by any Tuesday night at 7pm.

The Pitman Junior Firefighter Program has been practicing self-rescue by following a hose line out of the building. This is an important skill in case a firefighter ever becomes disoriented and needs to exit a building during a rescue. They are also continuing to learn and review types of building construction.

The Juniors program dedicate themselves to teaching the future of the fire service. The Junior Firefighter program is always looking for new members between the ages of 14-18. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Pitman Junior Firefighter program, they meet the first and third Monday of each month.

Pitman Senior Outreach has been working hard to connect with our Seniors in town! We want to remind residents that our events are open to ALL Pitman Seniors who are looking for fellowship and to have a great time! Our next Senior Outreach Event will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> from 11-2pm at VFW Post 6469, located at 142 Oakcrest Ave.. Games, Prizes, Music, and a light lunch will be served. We invite all Pitman Seniors to attend!

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Senior Outreach is hosting a trip to Cesar's Casino for a Smokey Robinson Celebration. The bus leaves Ballard Park at 9:45am. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the committee is also hosting a trip to Historic Cold Springs Village. The bus leaves Ballard Park at 9:30am. For more information, you can visit PitmanSeniorOutreach on Facebook.

Senior Outreach will continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6pm in the Conference room in Borough Hall. If you are interested in staying up to date with our 2023 Senior Outreach events, please contact Lucille Petrillo by phone (856) 357-2286, or email [lucelu16@yahoo.com](mailto:lucelu16@yahoo.com). or follow-on [Facebook PitmanSeniorOutreach](#). I want to remind our Residents that the Senior Bus schedule for July, can be found on the Borough of Pitman website ([www.pitman.org](http://www.pitman.org)).

As always, you can reach me anytime at [courtney.milward@pitman.org](mailto:courtney.milward@pitman.org) or 856-716-4249. This concludes my report.

## **Councilman Weng**

Councilman Weng recognized Jon Streater for his service and congratulated him on his upcoming promotion.

Councilman Weng also recognized Ann DuVall who had recently passed away and had an enormous impact on Pitman as a volunteer.

## **Councilman Mazzola**

### **Finance & Administration:**

Interviews were conducted last week for the Deputy Clerk position and we hope to have an offer on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Board of Education:**

On June 14th, the PHS Class of 2023 graduated on Davis Field. Surrounded by an unprecedented show of support from over 20 alumni classes, the administration, staff, and student speakers found a way to balance the grief they felt over the week's events with the joy of reaching this milestone. The valedictorian's speech summed up what many were feeling that night - "We are each weak, but we are all strong".

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Pride Alliance of Pitman for holding their annual Pride event on June 10th. It was a beautiful day of love and support. One young speaker, in particular, stated that "allies are everywhere" and it was easy to see them on that day. Thank you for all that you do to provide safe spaces and identify safe people in Pitman.

## **Council President Fitzpatrick**

No report

## **Councilperson James**

### **Parks & Recreation**

This Wednesday (6/28) night make sure to check out our first Open Mic Night at Sunset Auditorium from 7-9 p.m. Please bring a chair.

Guidelines for participants

- 2-3 songs depending on sign-ups
- Have your instrument tuned
- No inappropriate lyrics

Sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m.

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

Pop-Up Parks are back this Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Ballard Park and will run every Thursday through August 17th. Pop-Up Parks will include Live Music, Visalli's Farm Market, Catering by Thyme, Characters by Over The Top Party Planning and Games in the Park.

There will be a Chamber Check-In for Businesses on Monday, July 3rd at 10 a.m. at Fahrenheit Ceramic Studio. The Monthly Board Meeting will be canceled in light of the Miss Pitman Pageant.

**McCowan Memorial Library**

The Library is excited to announce that Museum Passes are back! Available passes include:

- The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
- The Academy of Natural Sciences
- Mutter Museum
- Penn Museum of of Archaeology and Anthropology
- Museum of the American Revolution
- Wheaton Arts

**Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

This year DEI sponsored the event permit for hanging the Pride in Pitman Banners Uptown. Thank you DEI Chairperson Alexandra Oasin for organizing the event to place the banners and to the volunteers including the Mayor and Members of Council who gave their time very early on a Saturday to hang them up. Also thanks to the Pride Alliance of Pitman and all the sponsors whose donations made the banners possible.

Also huge thanks to the Pride Alliance of Pitman for sponsoring the Third Annual Pride in Pitman Event which was held on Saturday, June 10th at the First Baptist Church of Pitman. My family and I spent the day at this event and immensely enjoyed all the speakers, vendors, and delicious food, and most of all the wonderfully kind group of people who attended. I was proud to attend an event that demonstrates through action that Pitman is a place where diversity is embraced and celebrated, and where all people are welcome regardless of who they are or who they love.

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**

Solid Waste Collection for the month of May

12 Loads to Wheelabrator	157.42 Tons
17 Loads to Gloucester County Landfill	217.40 Tons
Total of	374.82 Tons
Costing	\$31,567.34

Report for the Highway Department

20 hours spent cleaning the tops of storm drains.

8 hours patching and repairing potholes and sink holes.

Ran street sweeper 16 hours.

Doing approx. 90 curbside inspections per week of recycling containers.

Fred Rodi assisted the environmental commission with Planting at the Lake.

Assisted search teams in rescue by providing spotlights and gas for machines and trucks.

Removed Bamboo on Alcyon Blvd.

Cleaned, painted and sealed concrete on Theater Ave.

Report for the Water & Sewer Department  
Plunged out 4 sewer stoppages.  
Jetted 1 sewer mains.  
Read 7 meters for settlement.  
Upgraded 10-meter heads.  
Turned water off & on at various locations.  
Flushed Hydrants around town for water quality  
Repaired Leak and Water services on Vassar Ave  
Overnight Leak repair on Woodbury Glassboro Rd to be completed this week.

Recycling Report for May  
15 Loads of Single Stream Recycling 75.79 Tons  
At a total cost of \$5,948.18  
Bag Fees \$900.

Metal to Matteo Iron & Metal 1.18 Tons  
Profit of \$224.20

Mulch and brush hauled out to various places 280 Cubic Yards  
Cost \$2,520

Mayor Razzo mentioned that Council attended the services for Victor Rodriguez to extend our deepest sympathies on behalf of the entire community.

**New Business**

Councilman Mazzola presented the following Resolutions:

**Resolution No. 93, 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**  
Motion: Mazzola Second: Weng

Roll Call:  
Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes Councilperson James: Yes  
Councilman Kelly: Yes Councilman Mazzola: Abstain  
Councilwoman Milward: Abstain Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo mentioned that the closed session happened during our work session.

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Mazzola Second: Weng

Roll Call:  
Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes Councilperson James: Yes  
Councilman Kelly: Yes Councilman Mazzola: Yes  
Councilwoman Milward: Yes Councilman Weng: Yes

Councilwoman Milward presented the Event Permit Applications

**Event Permit Applications**

**Event:** Open Mic Music  
Organization: Recreation Dept.  
Date and Time: June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>; 7-9pm  
Location: Sunset Auditorium  
Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**  
Contact Person: Andy Fox

**Event:** Movie Day  
Organization: Recreation Dept. (Summer Playground)  
Date and Time: July 3<sup>rd</sup>; 9:30-11:30am  
Location: Sunset Auditorium  
Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**  
Contact Person: Andy Fox

**Event:** Craft Show  
Organization: Pitman Chamber of Commerce  
Date and Time: September 16, 2023; 5am-5pm  
Location: On Broadway  
Insurance Certificate provided: **YES**  
Contact Person: Kara Knauss

**Event:** Girl Scout Recruitment Table  
Organization: Girl Scouts  
Date and Time: August 1, 2023; 4:30-7:30pm  
Location: Ballard Park  
Insurance Certificate provided: **YES**  
Contact Person: Holly Redmond

**Event:** Car Show for Opening Night of Grease  
Organization: Broadway Theatre of Pitman  
Date and Time: July 7<sup>th</sup>; 5-8:30pm  
Location: 6 parking spaces in front of the theatre  
Insurance Certificate provided: **NA**  
Contact Person: Nick Blood

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Councilwoman Milward presented the Raffle License Applications

**Raffle License Applications**

**Type: Off-Premises Raffle**

Date: September 2, 2023

Time: 10pm

Location: Pitman High School

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Schuyler Kelley

**Type: Wheels & Non- Draw Raffles**

Date: Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 6:30-11pm

Location: Pitman High School

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Keith Thren

**Type: On-Premises Raffle**

Date: Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 10pm

Location: Pitman High School

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Keith Thren

**Type: 50/50 & On-Premises Raffle**

Date: Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 6:30-11pm

Location: Pitman High School

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Keith Thren

**Type: 50/50 & Off-Premises Raffle**

Date: Sept 2nd

Time: 9:45pm

Location: Pitman High School

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Keith Thren

Motion: Milward

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilwoman Milward: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Milward

Second: Weng

Time: 8:32 pm

**Monica Dresh, 415 Pitman Avenue**, addressed Council about her dad, Michael Hannum, a former Mayor of Pitman. The last Council meeting someone took it upon himself to speak for my dad, which was not ok, especially because he is no longer here to defend himself. My Dad was the most loving, caring, passionate and fair man I knew. He treated everyone equally and did not judge anyone. On behalf of my Mom and my family, we just wanted you, Mayor Razze and the Council to know this.

**Kyle Castagna, 96 Brookfield Avenue**, addressed Council to express his displeasure with the Pride flags and spoke extensively about God and his beliefs. Mr Castagna continued to state that he filled out an event permit to have the flags removed and was told by Officer Zander that his permit was denied because there was already an approved event permit to hang the flags. Mr. Castagna asked Council again if they could take a vote tonight to remove these flags.

Mayor Razze commented that he was told the same thing. That the application was denied by the Police Department. It conflicts with an application that is currently open and therefore would be denied. That is the process.

Mr. Castagna continued by thanking the Police with an incident that occurred Saturday night with himself and his brother. He continued to speak extensively about his beliefs again.

**Lee Dresh, 415 Pitman Avenue**, addressed the Council by stating his father-in-law was Mike Hannum. He continued to say first and foremost he would like to thank the Mayor and the Council, Company #1 and Highland Chemical for the flower arrangements sent for the funeral. Mr. Dresh continued to say he is not here to speak on his father's behalf, but to let his life actions speak for itself. As we were going through his desk, in a drawer, he found copies of the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence. His father told him to serve his community and he did this by becoming a Councilman, the Mayor, and as a businessman. His fair and honest principles are the representation of this man and his lessons that he's taught us and his legacy to live on.

**Donna Lee Milner, 6 Washington Avenue**, addressed the Council by thanking each one of them for the countless thankless hours into all of these decisions. Ms. Milner continued to voice her concern about the pride flags. Ms. Milner asked if it is dividing the community and then spoke about her beliefs with God.

**Elizabeth Flynn, 133 N Brentwood Avenue**, addressed Council to say thank you to everyone that has done all these EDI actions and hung these flags despite the controversy. Ms. Flynn continued to speak highly of all the people in attendance and the volunteer hours they put in throughout the town. Ms. Flynn stressed once again, thank you for having the Pride proclamation, for having the Pride event, for hanging our flags and for standing up for the people.

**Victor Castagna**, wouldn't give his address at first because he received threats, from the last time he spoke at a meeting. Mr. Castagna then gave his address of **23 S Brentwood Avenue**. Mr. Castagna continued by thanking everyone for their time and service. He also mentioned how he admires the people who volunteer in the community. Mr. Castagna spoke about his beliefs and then asked when voting occurs for the event permits.

Mayor Razze answered that whenever the applications are presented is when they are voted on. However, the agendas are online and can be seen prior to the meeting.

Mr. Castagna continued to speak about his beliefs and finished by thanking the Council again for all their time.



**Fran Harkin, 335 Pitman Avenue**, spoke to the Council about her beliefs about God, love and hate.

**Michael Grillo, 155 West Avenue**, addressed Council by thanking them for their time and effort to make our town run. Mr. Grillo continues by speaking on how proud he is of the community, the support of the businesses and the elected official support he has seen in the past 5 years.

**Jackie Tiger-Williams, 508 Boulevard Avenue**, addressed the Council questioning all the sins in the world today.

**Michelle Hannum, 96 Brookfield Avenue**, addressed the Council about her father Mike Hannum and reaffirmed what her family said, he was a very righteous, honest, Christian man. Ms. Hannum continued to speak about her Christian beliefs.

**Walt Madison, 152 West Avenue**, addressed the Council about pride. Pride that he had in Public Works. On Friday night, when he left the theater, there was a pile of sand at the ramp to the back parking lot behind the theater. Mr. Madison continued to say that between Friday night and Saturday night there were 5 or 6 pavers that had sunk all the way into the ground. After a conversation with our Public Works Supervisor the pavers were fixed. Mr. Madison mentioned again that he has pride in our Public Works.

**Judy Walker, 503 Hudson Avenue**, addressed Council to express her displeasure with the sign being displayed in town.

Mayor Razze made sure that everyone had a chance to speak first before allowing someone to speak for the second time.

Councilman Weng asked Mayor Razze if a short recess could be taken at this time. Mayor Razze responded after the next speaker if needed.

**Lucas Castagna, 23 S Brentwood Avenue**, addressed the Council extensively expressing his beliefs about Jesus.

Motion to close the public portion: Weng  
Time: 9:16 pm

Second: Mazzola

Mayor Razze mentioned tickets are on sale for the fireworks at Borough Hall, Brio, Crave and the Jewelry Store for \$4.00. Limited to 350.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Weng  
Time: 9:17 pm

Second: Mazzola

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McCafferty  
Borough Clerk