

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

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, 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 Razzo: Present
Clerk McCafferty: present

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

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Councilman Weng
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Second: Councilperson James

Budget Discussion

Councilman Mazzola gives a brief update on the budget. Some departments have made cuts, and some have not responded to the CFO. Councilman Mazzola explained the current Finance salaries and why the increase shows in the budget.

Councilperson James introduced Andrew Coldren, Library Director to discuss their request for salary increases. Mr. Coldren explained that he has many people on staff with years of service that are making minimum wage.

Mayor Razzo summarized at our next meeting we will discuss the budget with hopes of introducing at the first meeting in April. Council President Fitzpatrick requests that the budget packets come out early prior to the meeting.

120 East Ave

Emily Givens, Redevelopment Council, reporting on 120 East Ave. Ms. Givens goes on to say that the house was demolished on an emergent basis and that the owner still wants to develop it. Initially there was a discussion about a redevelopment plan, but after discussing with Tim Kernan, the Planning Zoning Board Planner, this would be a waste of time and money. Ms. Givens continues by saying, after consulting with some of the Planning Zoning Board members, it is more than likely that the Board would grant the variances needed to move the project forward. The owner is still interested in the 5yr abatement program; however, he would like to use the state formula (0,20,40,60, 80) and not the Borough Code of 30%. This can be discussed at a later time. Once construction is complete, within 30 days of getting his CO, he must submit a state mandated form for the tax exemption. The abatement would be adopted by ordinance if Council were to do something different than what is currently in Borough Code. Ms. Givens concludes that the owner needs to go to the Planning Zoning Board prior to getting permits. Solicitor Vigilante will reach out to him and let him know what his next steps are.

Council President Fitzpatrick asked of Ms. Givens to reach out to the attorney for Sony and schedule a zoom meeting to get an update.

Flood plan Ordinance

Solicitor Vigilante reported that the ordinance that was drafted, was submitted to DEP and it has been approved. The DEP would like Council to proceed with the adoption process. Introduction to be on March 27th, with a second reading on April 10th which makes the May 2nd deadline set by DEP.

Water Surcharge

Councilman Kelly explained the hardship the Borough has with their infrastructure. Councilman Kelly continued by explaining a 5-year water surcharge plan. A handout was given to all Council members explaining in detail the 5-year plan. Councilman Kelly discussed the benefits of having the plan and the fact that the surcharge can go away after the 5 years. Councilman Weng asked how much do we need? Councilman Kelly responded he doesn't have that answer. Mayor Razzo mentioned the amount of money saved by doing the work in-house versus having a contractor do it. The question was asked if surplus would be used, and the answer is it is a possibility. Mayor Razzo stated the next step is to have Matt Paden come in and answer some additional questions. Administrator McCafferty will ask him to attend the March 27th meeting.

Hiring PT Fire Inspectors

Councilman Fitzpatrick turned the conversation over to Administrator McCafferty. Administrator McCafferty explained that prior to her starting there was a vacancy for a PT Fire Inspector. After speaking with the Fire Official he has recommended (2) people to be hired to this position with no affect to the Borough budget. These salaries would come from the Fire Safety Trust.

Mayor Razzo asked for a discussion. There being none, the resolutions will be read at the next meeting.

Hiring Deputy Clerk Salary

Councilman Mazzola explained the salary request of \$48,000 is needed in order to get an experienced person in this position. This of course would be prorated for this year. With this offer, we are hoping she can start sometime in April.

Mayor Razzo asked about the salary ordinance currently showing \$45,000. Administrator McCafferty answered the salary ordinance would be discussed and changed accordingly and will be approved in a timelier manner.

Grants for Environmental

Councilman Weng gave an explanation about a \$1,500 Environmental grant that is available and requires no matching funds by the Borough. The grant includes projects such as sidewalks, trails, paths, printing informational literature, etc. Councilman Weng continued, Jennifer Titora a new Environmental member, with experience writing grants, is going to tackle this one. Councilman Weng would like to work with Councilperson James and Andy Fox to see what projects need to be done.

Purchase of K-9

Chief McAteer stepped forward to speak about purchasing a K-9. In his research he has found that these dogs are few and far between and that when one becomes available you have to act quick to purchase them. Chief McAteer is asking the Council for permission to purchase a dog when one becomes available.

Mayor Razzo summarized that the Borough is looking for a bomb dog this time because we would have more use for this dog versus a patrol dog. Chief McAteer added that a bomb dog is friendlier with the community.

Chief McAteer continued that the funds for the dog as well as the K-9 program is completely funded by fundraising except for the trainer stipend that comes out of the budget.

A motion was made to move ahead with the purchase of a K-9 dog.

Motion: Weng

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilperson James: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Councilperson James gave an update on items that have been discussed at the Recreation meeting. The overlook at Alcyon Park is being taken down due to safety reasons as well as the playground at Shertel Park. There is a discussion to replace this equipment with another age appropriate equipment.

Councilperson James reported on the walking path at Betty Park. The paved path is in bad shape in several sections. Director Fox and Public Works went and took a look at it and it is hazardous in spots. Public Works believes they can fix it in house with an estimate of \$4,000-\$5,000, which we currently don't have it in the budget. Director Fox has spoken to the CFO to see if it can be put in the capital budget.

Motion to close discussion: Councilman Weng

Second: Councilperson James

Time: 7:47 p.m.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Mazzola

Second: Councilman Kelly

Time: 7:47 p.m.

Walt Madison, 152 West Ave – Mr. Madison asked Council to make sure the contractor working on the project on East Ave is aware that he needs historical approval.

Motion to close public portion: Councilmen Mazzola

Second: Councilman Kelly

Time: 7:48 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Mazzola

Second: Councilman Kelly

Time: 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McCafferty, RMC
Borough Clerk