

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 27, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 6:31 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: arrived late at 6:47pm	Councilperson James: present
Councilman Kelly: present	Councilman Mazzola: present
Councilwoman Milward: absent	Councilman Weng: absent
Mayor Razzo: Present	Borough Solicitor Vigilante: arrived at 7:00pm
Clerk McCafferty: present	CFO Considine: present

Discussion

Time: 6:32pm

Budget Discussion

Councilman Mazzola and CFO Considine gives a brief update on the budget. The budget currently shows a 10 cent increase, which for an average homeowner, will see a \$240 annual increase.

Clerk McCafferty asked what the timeline would be if the budget was ready to go. CFO Considine answered there is a possibility of introduction of the budget on April 10th, public hearing May 8th, then the State reviews our budget, with hopeful adoption on May 22nd.

Salary Discussion

Councilman Mazzola led the discussion regarding the salary ordinance. Please review your department's salary ranges and make any changes.

Council President Fitzpatrick arrived.

Budget Discussion continued

Councilman Mazzola answered Council President Fitzpatrick's questions regarding administrative salaries, that he had sent earlier. Council President Fitzpatrick continued with more questions regarding the budget. Councilman Mazzola and CFO Considine answered accordingly.

Water Surcharge

Councilman Kelly introduced Fred Rodi, Public Works Manager and Matt Paden Supervisor of the Water/Sewer Department. Mr. Paden gave a detailed explanation on why the surcharge is so important to the Borough. Mr. Paden stated that there is 68,000 feet of pipe to be replaced and the estimated cost is 2.7 million dollars. This is why the surcharge is so important. Mr. Paden also showed Council an example of sediment collected while flushing out pipes. A discussion on buying pipe in bulk with other towns or the County.

Accessory Ordinance Discussion

Council President Fitzpatrick answered the Councilperson James question from last meeting regarding the distance in the Historic District. Council President Fitzpatrick spoke with Borough Planner Tim Kernan and the Zoning Officer Roy Duffield with the new proposed ordinance and as long as it meets all the other zoning requirements then 5ft would be ok from the sidewalk. The proposed ordinance sets the height at 16ft being the maximum allowed.

Mayor Razze spoke of a situation that had just been heard at the Planning Zoning Board and if a special circumstance is needed, then going in front of the Planning Zoning Board for a variance would be the homeowner’s next step.

Solicitor Vigilante said she would hopefully have an ordinance to review at the next work session and then we could introduce it.

Zoning Officer Enforcement

Administrator McCafferty informed the Council that the Zoning Officer will start enforcing the table and chairs on the sidewalk as well as the sandwich board signs.

Fueling Issue & Road Program

Administrator McCafferty asked Mr. Rodi to speak about the upcoming road program that included Vassar, Roosevelt and McKinley. Mr. Rodi informed the Council that it was decided to take McKinley off because we asked for \$500,000 from DOT and we are only getting \$235,000. Mr. Rodi continued to say that McKinley can be considered for an in-house project since it is not as large of a project as the other streets.

Administrator McCafferty informed Council that the Sunco in town was shut down and we were unable to gas there. However, we were able to get gas at another location. Ms. McCafferty continued to inform Council that just this week Sunco filed for bankruptcy and that we were waiting to hear the outcome. After discussion with other departments and hearing the inconsistency on how the Sunco runs their business, it has been decided that we will be moving our fuel service to WAWA. The application process has been started and we are hoping to have cards soon.

Motion to close discussion: Councilman Kelly
Time: 7:36 p.m.

Second: Councilman Mazzola

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Councilperson James
Time: 7:36 p.m.

Second: Council President Fitzpatrick

Beth Portocalis, 301 Washington Ave – Ms. Portocalis asked how much the water surcharge will be. Mayor Razze answered that it is a quarterly charge and it depends on the service to the property. Councilman Kelly stated that these are for the service mains itself. Mr. Kelly then explained the 2 options – option one - \$17 a quarter for 5 years which equals to \$68, \$76, \$84, \$92, \$100 annually. Option two - \$19 a quarter for 5 years which equals to \$76, \$84, \$92, \$100, \$108 annually.

Ms. Portocalis asked if Council was aware of the NJ Infostructure Trust where you can draw down money and be reimbursed. Mr. Rodi answered that he is aware of the program, however, it is not cost-effective for the Borough to use that program.

Ms. Portocalis asked if the employees are still on the NJ State Health Benefits Program. Mayor Razze answered that we are not. We are in the Southern Jersey Regional Health Insurance Fund.

Ms. Portocalis thanked the Public Works Department for the truck rental program. It was a great service. Mayor Razze explained the program in detail.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Ave – Mr. Fortney asked when will the sprinkler system be charged because the Garden Club is ready to plant in about 2 weeks. Mr. Rodi said he would reach out to the vendor and get it scheduled.

Mr. Fortney also explained that there may be a water leak near the storage door of the library. Mr. Rodi will check into this.

Mr. Fortney asked about the cost of rebuilding the Overlook because the cost of lumber is so expensive. Councilperson James answered that the Parks and Recreation Commission has been looking into this for the past 2 years and with the different options of materials that could be used, it is too expensive to rebuild at this time and so it is now a safety concern and this is why it is being removed.

Mr. Fortney discussed the field and the plants and why it is overgrown the way it is.

Michael Grillo, 155 West Ave – Mr. Grillo commented on the water surcharge. Councilman Kelly explained that this is a program that can end in 5 years if that is what Council wants to do in the future. Mayor Razze explained that if we continue to pay for this through the budget then the taxes continue to rise, where the surcharge is dedicated to improving our infrastructure.

Motion to close public portion: Councilmen Mazzola
Time: 7:51 p.m.

Second: Councilman Kelly

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Councilperson James
Time: 7:51 p.m.

Second: Councilman Kelly

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McCafferty, RMC
Borough Clerk