

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 11, 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 and the 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
Clerk McCafferty: present

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

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Weng
Time: 7:01 p.m.

Second: James

Water Credit

Councilman Kelly opened the discussion about a water credit for 327 East Holly Ave. An additional meter was previously installed at the residence but had been configured incorrectly resulting in an overcharge over several quarters. After reviewing information provided by the homeowner, it was determined the water credit totaled \$392.65.

Tree Trimming & Removal

Councilman Kelly presented four quotes from Enrights, Meinharts, Captains Tree Service, and Bethel Mill Contracting for tree work at the following addresses: 107 Seventh Ave (tree trimming), Lot between Seventh and Eighth Ave. (tree removal), Common Lot on Eleventh Ave. (tree removal). Both removals include stump grinding and cleanup. Councilman Weng wanted to confirm that Shade Tree had assessed the trees before removal. He also requested further information and a review of the quotes before any decisions were made.

Water Ordinance Change

Administrator McCafferty presented a proposal from Public Works to change the water ordinance regarding replacement of pipes for businesses in town. At present, the Borough only replaces certain size pipes, and some businesses use a different size. The proposed change in the ordinance would clarify what the Borough replaces. It was also proposed to increase the rate of water/sewer turn on/off charges. The Mayor and Council requested more information on the reason behind the increase. Administrator McCafferty will reach out to Public Works to get clarification.

HOA Draft Agreement

Administrator McCafferty presented a draft agreement to Mayor and Council for review regarding the Holly Glen HOA reimbursement. Rates were determined by averaging the HOA electricity usage and snow removal over the last year. After some discussion, it was determined that some wording in the draft should be better defined. Council will be given the chance to ask questions and provide input before revising the draft.

Miscellaneous

Councilwoman Milward mentioned a conversation she had with Police Chief McAteer concerning the one-way street changes and feels that more discussion needs to be had before the ordinance is passed. The first reading of the ordinance was read at the August 14th meeting, with the second reading scheduled for this meeting. Councilwoman Milward asked the best way to handle the ordinance process if more discussion needs to be had on the topic. Administrator McCafferty

suggested that since it was advertised for public hearing at this meeting, that the process should continue as planned. The ordinance would be open to public hearing, but when the time came for Council to vote, they could all vote no, canceling the ordinance and allowing them to start again. It is easier to start over on the ordinance than to make amendments. Councilman Weng clarified that Council could still come back with a similar ordinance if they wanted, this just allows time for further discussion and refining of the ordinance. Councilwoman Milward suggested that the ordinance be broken down into three separate sections since the circumstances of each one-way street require different solutions.

Councilman Fitzpatrick mentioned that he spoke with a Mrs. Young on Carew Ave. who is not in favor of the Bike Trail. Mrs. Young is in agreements to sell the back part of her property to Rowan, and Councilman Fitzpatrick feels the Borough should try reaching out to her again and at least try to match the offer. Mayor Razze offered to reach out to Mrs. Young.

Councilperson James referenced a concern from a resident at the August 14th meeting regarding the inability to park near their home on Hazel Ave. and requested parking spaces to be made available. Councilperson James did research into what similar towns, such as Haddon Heights, do for these situations. Councilperson James will send Administrator McCafferty a sample of the Haddon Heights ordinance to distribute to Council and Chief McAteer for review. Discussion of possible solutions to this parking issue can be revisited at a future meeting after everyone has had a chance to review.

Councilwoman Weng asked for an update on the bamboo removal at Alcyon Blvd. Mayor Razze said that there is no update at this time. There is a plan in place to replace the bamboo with something else, but he would like to confirm some aspects of that plan before moving forward.

Administrator Updates

Administrator McCafferty mentioned that Justin Milillo from the NJ DMAVA is scheduled to be at the September 25th work session to discuss the Armory.

Administrator McCafferty updated on the vacant property situation with ProChamps. It was agreed that this service would be handled in-house moving forward. Administrator McCafferty would like to suspend all payments until January 1, 2024. She believes the current ordinance fee structure is incorrect and would like to make changes before accepting payment from these organizations. Mayor Razze asked if any formal action needed to be taken against ProChamps. Administrator McCafferty said that though other municipalities are suing ProChamps, she's not aware of any action being taken by the Borough Solicitor yet. If that is something Mayor and Council wish to pursue, it can be discussed. Otherwise, the ordinance can be revisited, and the Borough can start fresh with their list of properties on file in January 2024.

Motion to close discussion: Milward
Time: 7:29 p.m.

Second: Kelly

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Milward
Time: 7:29 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Ave addressed the Council requesting direction on how to proceed with a new LED sign on Broadway and Holly Ave. Councilwoman Milward asked if Mr. Owen had reached out to other departments, as discussed in the August 14th meeting, for contributions towards the cost. Mr. Owen said he had, and there was interest, but no dollar amount given. Discussion ensued amongst Council about various outstanding projects as the year comes to an end, stating that this sign may need to be put on hold until later in the year when these other projects are completed, and there is a better idea of what's available in the budget. Councilman Weng feels like the sign project can be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Owen was concerned the price quote he was given would not last that long. Administrator McCafferty suggested reaching out to the vendor to make a deposit to hold the price.

Guy Groff, 504 Hudson Ave addressed the Council about his experience with the one-way street on Albert Ave. now that the school year has started. He feels it is an unnecessary upset to the street for only 2 hrs. a day when vehicles drop off and pick up at the school. Mr. Groff wanted to know if it is illegal to limit the hours that the one-way is in effect.

