

BOROUGH OF PITMAN
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 11, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Time: 7:02 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: absent
Mayor Razze: present
Clerk McCafferty: present

Councilperson James: present
Councilman Mazzola: absent
Councilman Uyehara: present
Borough Solicitor Vigilante: present

Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Kelly
Time: 7:03 p.m.

Second: James

Engineer's Report

Administrator McCafferty presented the March Engineer's Report for Mayor and Council's Review. Councilperson James asked the status of the Glen Lake Spillway repair. Administrator McCafferty discovered both a past Resolution indicating the desire to set up a dedicated Trust fund for the project, as well as monies that were issued to the Borough for this purpose. Administrator McCafferty is currently in the process of determining whether these funds are still available for the project.

Vacant Property Ordinance

Solicitor Vigilante gave an update on her proposed changes to the vacant property registration ordinance. At present, the ordinance includes repetitive chapters which are unnecessary. Solicitor Vigilante recommended repealing and amending these sections to provide clarification, as well as listing the new fees.

Tree Ordinance

Solicitor Vigilante mentioned that the NJDEP requires a modified tree ordinance to be adopted by May 1, 2024. This ordinance would require that after the removal of certain trees, another tree would need to be planted in its place. Solicitor Vigilante recommended getting input from the Shade Tree Commission as to what species of trees would be preferred for replacement. The sample ordinance will be circulated to the Mayor and Council for review to discuss at the next work session.

Armory Appraisal

Council President Fitzpatrick asked for an update on the Armory appraisal. Administrator McCafferty mentioned that she had reached back out regarding the original quotes but was still waiting to hear back from the less expensive vendor.

4th of July Fireworks

Mayor Razze mentioned that he has been in communication with the fireworks contractor the Borough normally uses for fireworks and was informed that if the Borough would like to have this year's fireworks on the actual day for 4th of July (a Thurs.), the cost would be more than double that of previous years. However, if the Borough is willing to change the date to either July 5th or 6th (Fri/Sat), they could get the same price and show as in years past. After some discussion, Council felt that the Borough should proceed with the

lower cost and hold the fireworks on either July 5th or 6th depending on what date worked best for the Police, Fire, and Parks departments.

Miscellaneous

Council President Fitzpatrick mentioned some recent complaints about businesses using “sandwich board” signs on sidewalks. In order to avoid the obstruction of sidewalks, it was suggested that some generic directional signs might be hung on the lampposts to indicate additional businesses that are not on Broadway. Mayor Razze mentioned that in addition to these directional signs, the businesses themselves might also consider hanging cantilever style signs to provide greater visibility to anyone passing by these side streets.

Councilperson James mentioned that the tentative dates for Youth Week are May 5th-11th.

Mayor Razze mentioned some recent concerns regarding the pooling of water on sidewalks in front of businesses on Broadway after heavy rains. According to the ordinance, the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Mayor Razze asked Council if any of them were aware of any improvement grants that might help offset the cost to property owners in making these repairs. Councilperson James recommended reaching out to the County Economic Development Committee to inquire about any grants they might offer. Councilman Kelly also mentioned that the Pitman Economic Development Committee is having someone attend a meeting in the near future to discuss grants.

Administrator McCafferty provided an update on the new LED sign on Broadway and Holly Ave. All construction permits and electrical work has been completed and the Borough is now just waiting on the installation.

Motion to close discussion: James
Time: 7:27 p.m. Second: Kelly

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Fitzpatrick
Time: 7:27 p.m. Second: James

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Ave mentioned that certain areas of the sidewalk construction along Broadway used sand and other areas used cement.

Jen Evans, 327 Legion Ct asked for information on the Miss Pitman Pageant dates for this year.

Nick Aspras, 415 Poinsett Ave asked if there would be any historic consideration to the proposed directional signs for businesses off Broadway. Councilperson James mentioned that The Chamber of Commerce would follow all necessary procedures for approval. Mr. Aspras also mentioned a concern about the signs showing preference to certain businesses over another. Councilperson James assured Mr. Aspras that the language would be generic, such as “*More Shopping This Way*” or something similar.

Motion to close public portion: Kelly
Time: 7:31 p.m. Second: James

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: James
Time: 7:32 p.m. Second: Uyehara

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McCafferty, Borough Clerk