

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 p.m. SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. On the motion of Council President Rummler, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon, and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Endicott, Doris Bugdon, Craig Rummler, Roger Giberson, John Adams

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Donna Riegel, Kevin Wessler

**MAYOR:** Gary B. Giberson

**ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Kimberly A. Campellone

**ATTORNEY:** Kimberly Procopio, Esq.

Council President Craig Rummler called the meeting to order and lead the flag salute. This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the minutes, in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act". The Municipal Clerk of the City of Port Republic posted at City Hall, 143 Main Street, Port Republic and mailed and/or faxed to the Atlantic City Press and the Mainland Journal, a meeting notice setting for the time, date and locations of this meeting.

Fred D' Andrea Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs with Comcast explained the process for the renewal. The City of Port Republic is compensated each year for the right of way that Comcast uses to lay the cable. Comcast is in the final stages of renewal. The renewal began on April 23, 2013 with a notice sent of their intent to renew. The license is non-exclusive meaning it does not prevent any of the other carriers from coming into Port Republic namely Verizon Fios.

Comcast is the largest cable operator in the United States, serving Port Republic there should be some assurances there. Since 2000 when they introduced digital cable, HD services and the innovation in high speed internet and phone service it is saving consumers a lot of money.

Comcast Cable has done a lot to improve their services from the beginning of their contract with Port Republic.

Tonight's meeting is a opportunity for the public to weigh in on the renewal. There is no action required from the Governing Body or from Comcast tonight. The public's opinion will be part of the negotiations.

Some of the requirements for the renewal are sustainable terms of contract, quality operator's service signal quality responsive to the community's needs. Does operator

have the financial, legal and technical ability to provide the renewal. Is the cable franchise proposal reasonable to meet future cable needs. Right now speed is a main concern. Comcast is very confident for the future needs.

Kim Procopio, Esquire brought up issues raised by the public one is access on two fronts geographical access, and the cost for the access. She questioned Mr. D'Andrea if he could address this issue. He stated in certain rural areas it can be cost prohibitive. The line extension policy the cable operator has with the State requires a reasonable return on any capital investment. Density requirements can be part of the negotiations the density requirements in place now is 35 homes per mile. Mr. D'Andrea will email information over to City Solicitor Kim Procopio.

Mayor Giberson expressed his appreciation to Comcast Cable.

Resident Kathy Cox 123 Moss Mill Road, Port Republic stated that even if she were to get cable not sure if she would go with Comcast since she cannot get price information from them. Mr. D'Andrea will have her property surveyed for a line extension request, Comcast adopts the states requirements of 35 mile density, anything outside of that there will be some cost sharing. When Mrs. Cox first bought her property there was a trench dug and cable was laid. Since then the county has mowed over the cable but it is still under ground. She is 200' off the road. Council President stated the main problem is the communication between herself and Comcast. Mr. D'Andrea apologizes for the customer service center not passing along the information to the proper departments.

Mr. Mike Turner of 279 Main Street, Port Republic, is here for his son Michael Turner of Indian Cabin Road, he mentioned there is a disparity between running the cable down the public right of way, and the application underground from the street. There is 200' of cable in the ground and cable on the other end, the middle is missing overhead, he thought that was all applied for when asked for the cable to be hooked up they gave a astronomical figure of over \$10,000. Mr. Turner feels he is being held hostage by Comcast. There should be something that the cable company can do for them perhaps a antenna of some sort.

Mr. D'Andrea stated that Comcast will go back and review survey.

Bob Haviland of 316 English Road Port Republic, his home was supplied with on demand that they never asked for, they do not use it. Comcast supplied two converter boxes at no charge before, now Comcast has started charging for the converted boxes his other concern is the increase to their service of high definition to get some of the sports channels that they were able to get for free with services now they will have to pay to get the same games forcing them to use a higher level of service that they do not want. Mr. Haviland has seen this kind of trend before. If he had a option he would not go with Comcast Cable he would go with another provider. Mr. Haviland stated it is the principal of it. Mr. D'Andrea will send a maintenance person out to Mr. Haviland's residence they may be missing something.

Councilmember Adams questioned sending a signal out from multiple locations, do certain municipalities have their signals backed up by a emergency generator? Mr. D'Andrea stated Comcast has hubs throughout New Jersey. The generators are built in at the hubs.

Mayor and City Council thanked Fred D'Andrea from Comcast for his time.

City Hall- Went out to bid today September 24, the architect is reviewing the bids to make sure all documents are in place.

**CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:**

Hearing nothing further from the public, Councilmember Wessler moved, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to close the public portion.

Executive Session

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly A. Campellone  
Acting Municipal Clerk