

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. MARCH 11, 2014
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: John Adams, John Bonthron, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Donna Riegel, Craig Rummler, Kevin Wessler

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

MAYOR: Gary B. Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Kimberly Procopio, Esq.

AUDITOR: Kenneth Moore, CPA, RMA

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Gina Simon, CMFO

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.

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Wessler and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 EXECUTIVE SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUAR 11, 2014 BUDGET WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Bonthron and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 2014 BILL LIST

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Council President Rummler asked that everyone keep in their thoughts and prayers, Planning Board Member, Steve Allgeyer who is currently at Cozer Chester Burn Center due to accident in his garage.

Additionally, Council President Rummler wished to recognize and thank Councilman John Adams for his willingness to relinquish his first-class seat to military personnel during his many flights to Puerto Rico for business. Councilman Adams thanked Council President Rummler and stated that it is his pleasure and that he enjoyed his flight better knowing that the serviceperson was sitting in first-class. Councilwoman Bugdon added that a US Airways pilot witnessed Councilman Adams' actions on many occasions and was recommended and given an award by US Airways.

Mr. Moore stated that the tax rate remains flat. Some debt is being reduced based on the revenue from the gravel; surplus is strong this year.

ORDINANCE 02-2014 CAP RATE

First Reading/Introduction

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

INTRODUCTION BUDGET 2014

First Reading/Introduction

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Police/Emergency Management:

Mayor Giberson has been attending meetings regarding damage assessment reports. No police report

Administrative/Personnel:

Personnel continue to anticipate the move to the new city hall.

Public Works:

The personnel committee members have been in contact with public works personnel; they have stepped it up and continue to be busy.

Recreation:

A number of requests have been received and approved for the use of the ball field. Applications are also coming in for the use of the park and pavilion. Three clean team kids will be coming back this year; space is available for one more applicant. The beach badge attendant has been hired and life guards are currently underway.

Fire and Ambulance:

The Chief John Yochim stated that John D'Agostino attended the fire department's last meeting. The department was advised that volunteers are not covered under the current plan and that a separate plan can be obtained for an additional cost of approx. \$525 a year which would cover the volunteers for both the fire department and the city.

The new roof is being installed at the firehouse.

Board of School Estimates:

The school board has sent their school budget draft to the County. Next week is the regular school board meeting; Board of School Estimates will meet with the budget members to finalize and work out the problems with the budget which is currently at \$0.24.

Councilman Giberson asked how much of the increase is due to the tuition hike at Cedar Creek High School. Council President advised that it is a result of a 50% tuition hike; 92% of the budget increase is due to the tuition hike. An additional \$7,000+ is for students attending ACIT.

Councilman Giberson asked if the increase would occur yearly or be one-time event. Councilman Bonthron believes that the increase is based on the number of students. Council President advised that approx. \$30,000 needs to be made up this year which is owed from last year.

Mayor Giberson has put out a call for help to the State Senator's and Governor's Office to raise the cap for school choice.

Planning Board:

No Report.

Code Enforcement:

Still waiting to hear from contractor at Whispering Woods regarding the missing storm drains.

Construction:

For the month of February: total of 21 inspections were done; the following permits were issued: three alterations, one demo, and one CO inspection for a total of five.

Senior Services:

Awaiting for the PTR booklets for new applicants; thus far seven booklets are needed. Booklets should be arriving within the next three weeks. Councilwoman Bugdon will be assisting the new applicants with the application.

Senior Murder Mystery Tea is scheduled for May 3, 2014 at 1:00pm; the theme will be Hawaiian and will be held at the Port Church.

Health aids are still being donated and distributed.

City Wide Clean-up will be April 12th.

Finance:

No report.

Building:

Roof trusses have arrived and the cupola is being manufactured. Approvals are completed on the siding, windows, interior parts and mechanical systems. The building committee is very happy with the builder and architect.

Mr. Moore stated that for the completion of the tax maps a special emergency resolution would be passed then the tax map could be contracted and spread the cost over 5 years.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Giberson and carried.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Rd., stated that Barry Hackett of the GIS office at Atlantic County Engineering may be able to provide information on individual properties and boundaries.

Joann Martin, 615 Chestnut Neck Rd., expressed her concern that bringing in choice school students in the Port School would not be enough to help with the increase in costs at the school.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Rd., stated that he thought that as a sending district high school tuition costs can only be assessed on operating costs and not capital costs.

Mike McGarvey, 207 Mill Bridge Court, asked if the City would consider commercial ratables to help with the school budget.

Fire Chief John Yochim, asked the status of the coned-off area of Pomona Road and is concerned with the fire trucks driving in that area.

Amy Nass, 344 Old New York Rd., thanked the City for the beach badge donation for the PTS Beef and Beverage and was able to raise \$5,380. Additionally, she stated that she was happy to hear that the City does not intend to close the school. Furthermore, she stated that the Cedar Creek tuition is high because the tuition had been pushed off for future payment and is now due.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT

William Johnson, CTA informed that the State has sent back the tax maps with extensive revisions and the information has been forwarded to Matt Doran with an estimated cost of \$29,000 to complete the revisions. Council President Rummier asked how the smaller lots were merged together and that some dimensions are missing. Mr. Johnson stated that those questions would be addressed with the revision of the tax maps. The tax map approval is needed to move forward; as the engineer updates the map pages Mr. Johnson will enter the information into the MOD IV to match the tax maps.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from David Goddard in regards to the Gravel Mining
Mayor Giberson spoke with Planning Board Attorney Mike Fitzgerald, he explained

Ole Hansen cannot do testing until the water table is up a bit; they are in order with the CAFRA permit. Councilman Wessler questioned if the City can renegotiate the bid.

Letter dated February 5th, MS SOCIETY May 18th Sunday.
Mayor and council acknowledged correspondence and approved.

Letter from FAMS in regard to Tonnage Reporting from year 2005.
City Solicitor Kim Procopio will immediately write back disputing fee of \$1,750.00

Letter dated February 18, 2014 from join together Atlantic County to adopt an Ordinance for underage drinking
Mayor and City Council did not want to move forward with Ordinance for underage drinking on private property.

RESOLUTIONS:

35-2014 Approving Discharge of Fireworks

On the motion of Councilmember Wessler, seconded of Councilmember Bonthron and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

36-2014 Authorizing Increase of \$1,554.89 for JW Pedersen

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

37-2014 Municipal Alliance Grant

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Wessler and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

01-2014 Ordinance to designate the Position of Purchasing Agent

2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Wessler and carried.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Wessler and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

03-2014 Salary Ordinance

First Reading/Introduction

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried.

YES: Adams, Bonthron, Bugdon, Giberson, Rummler, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

South Jersey Gas Community Meeting will be held on March 20th at 6:30 pm location Port School

Rummler stated that this notice went out in newsletter, the city is still short on the amount of residents to sign up South Jersey Gas will implement a revised plan that certain areas will be hooked up to start process. Encourage anyone interested to please attend, Council member Riegel questioned how many are we short; Rummler stated 100.

Resident John Yochim advised Council that South Jersey Gas is only concerned about looping it into Port Republic and not provide gas to all residents.

Route 610 Bridge Correspondence from Dennis Levinson to Senator Connors
Mayor Giberson had nothing to add.

City Wide Revaluation
Discussed above.

Old Public Works Garage
To be discussed at the next fire department meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

CDBG

An application has been submitted to pave the current grave handicap parking area with asphalt and to remove the brick and replace with a concrete walkaway for easier handicap access.

Eagle Scout Project (Craig Rummler)

An Eagle Scout has proposed a project to create a parking area at Clark's Mill. Council President Rummler has reached out to Atlantic County Open Space and Green Acres; both stated that it was okay but approval is needed from CAFRA. Once all okays are received the Scout will make a presentation to Council.

Dog Census

Currently working out the details to complete dog census. Council President Rummler reminded that the rabies clinic will be March 29, 2014.

Councilwoman Bugdon thanked Kathy Cox for her contribution to the newsletter regarding her experience with South Jersey Gas.

PROCLAMATION:

02-2014 Next Number

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Bonthron and carried.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Rd., appraied Council that a 10 acre parcel of Clark's Mill burial ground is for sale and could be acquired by the City for open space with the possibility of using it as a soccer field.

Fire Chief John Yochim informed that the handicap area at the Firehouse was never sealed.

Kathy Cox Moss 123 Mill Road, informed that the BlackBoard link on the City's website is not working properly.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 03-2014 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. Nothing for discussion

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Wessler, seconded of Councilmember Bonthron and carried to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk