

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 p.m. JANUARY 6, 2015**  
**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 Bonthron, Doris Bugdon, Donna Riegel, Craig Rummler, Nick Capille, Kevin Wessler.

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Roger Giberson

**MAYOR:** Gary B. Giberson

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

**ATTORNEY:** Keith Davis, 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 Current Newspaper, a meeting notice setting for the time, date and locations of this meeting.

**MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 9, 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 9, 2014 EXECUTIVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2015 BILL LIST**

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS**

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

**Police/Emergency Management:**

Mayor Giberson stated that there is a good amount of progress with the State Police. The computer cabinet is in for the state police; with Councilmember Kevin Wessler's help angle brackets made for the cabinet. The NJSP computer technician has picked up the computer to program and bring it back. The City's IT person will help with the installation.

Additionally, Mayor Giberson stated that he attended the December court session and was amazed and really boiling inside because every single person that came in front of the judge, the prosecutor had already made arrangements to down play the charges against them; people who have had their license revoked get off with a small fine. Mayor Giberson felt they should do a weekend in jail or tell them we are going to fine them scare them. Mayor Giberson spoke to the prosecutor about the procedures and is really disgusted about how long Trenton takes on DWI matters. Just seems like they all walk out of court with a smile on their face with the Judge saying "thank you". The City spent a lot of money to have the court in compliance. Mayor Giberson would like to only appoint this Judge for one year. Mayor Giberson stated it is not him personally; it's the way the court is set up. More information will be available next month.

**Administrative/Personnel:**

Gina Simon passed her Qualified Purchasing Agent exam (QPA). It broadens what the City can do with a QPA on staff. City Clerk Campellone has everything running smoothly. Councilmember Bugdon would like the employees to turn the phone over to the answering service during their lunch break.

**Public Works:**

Council President Rummler reported the dump truck is back and fixed; some extra work had to be done on the spinner that distributes the salt. The brush pile it is now gone. Public works spent two days grading the area and filled it with the topsoil. The gate continues to be an issue. The gate can only be opened manually. The contractor that put in the gate is Ruberton; Frank Pagano is the contact person and he stated he did not like the gate from the beginning because it is too long. The problem is that the eyes of the gate are very difficult to keep lined up. Council President Rummler spoke to Ken Mosca from Atlantic City Electric and he advised that it is the City's problem. Ken Mosca was advised that someone had stepped on one of the eyes. Council President

examined the eyes and found that they looked secure in a metal case. No response has been received from the manufacture or from Ruberton who was supposed to come to this area two months ago and never showed up.

**Recreation:**

No report.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

No report.

**Board of School Estimates:**

Mayor Giberson was told by the school board members they will have good news for us. There is a possibility there may be more choice students. Additionally, he stated that the kids and teachers are happy with Interim Superintendent Joetta Surace; it is a plus for everyone.

**Planning Board:**

Councilmember Riegel stated there is a meeting next Monday so she will have a report next month.

**Code Enforcement:**

Code Enforcement Officer Campellone reached out to the bank concerning the Andreaci property. Code Enforcement Officer Campellone sent a property maintenance ordinance and waiting to hear from them. The roof is collapsing in, it is in bad shape. Council President Rummler mentioned to City Solicitor Keith Davis your office is working on the Whispering Woods development. They have never fixed the stolen grate for the storm drain the road needs patching. Keith Davis stated there should be a performance bond in place. Keith Davis will check with Kim Procopio on the status. There was no homeowners association established.

**Construction:**

Alterations for a total of 6, C/O inspections of 2 for resale, and 1 fence permit. Construction Official Jack Kelly is working on the ordinance for the new fees, he should be done by February.

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon assisted seniors in October/November with heating assistance and helping them get on PADD some of them now qualify because of their income so she was able to get paperwork and help them. Councilmember Bonthron stated a good friend of his had nothing but good things to say about Councilwoman Bugdon, he was so grateful for all her help.

**Building:**

Councilmember Wessler stated that the building committee should continue for another month or two until the parking lot and bathrooms are completed. He has to get the

information from City Engineer Matt Doran about the handicapped parking spaces. Mayor Giberson would like the Building Committee to look into the retention pond in the parking lot if we could build that pond near the trees we could gain more parking spots, Councilmember Wessler believes we can't do that since the wells are there. Councilmember Wessler will contact City Engineer Matt Doran to look into. Mayor Giberson stated we really could use more parking; original plan is to park out back for employees.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Resident Frank Brown mentioned that he had family members on City Council and recalls all the time that they put in. He wanted to extend his thanks to everyone on Council for all their hard work and time that they put in. He is grateful on a personal note and from the church. He also advised that the church steeple will be restored; they will be canvassing the town for donations. The steeple will be lighted and is expected be an \$85,000.00 project. A letter will go out later this month. Mayor Giberson will look into placing the church on a historical trust. Pastor Frank Brown would like that but stated he would not like it to hinder anything involving the church. He also stated the church will to Crowd Funding through the internet.

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter dated December 19, 2014 from Gary Conover of ACUA 2015 Wastewater & Solid Waste Tares and Fees.

*Acknowledged*

Pinelands meeting scheduled June 2015.

*Acknowledged*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**29-2015** Budget transfer of 2014

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

**30-2015** Awarding M.G. McGettigan appraiser, as appraiser for the city owned property.

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

Councilmember Bugdon mentioned that the appraiser suggested doing some testing on this property due to the contamination at the Port Store. Council President Rummler spoke with the prior owners of the Port Store; they mentioned that there was some testing done. City Clerk Campellone sent an OPRA request to the state for any information regarding the contamination.

**31-2015 Proposed Casino Gambling Properties Tax Relief Legislation and the Opposition of the Current Proposed Bills**

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

**YES:** Bonthron, Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:**

**ORDINANCES:**

01-2015 Ordinance amending Chapter 231, Recycling

*Introduction first reading*

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

**YES:** Bugdon, Riegel, Rummler, Capille, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Giberson

**ABSTAIN:** Bonthron

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Council President Rummler had a conversation with Billy Smallwood; PRAF will no longer be hosting the Iron Man as it was just too much. He spoke with Jim Schroeder Jr. and Egg Harbor City is going to run it. Jim Schroeder is the Chamber of Commerce President and he has been assisting in this. The plan originally was to come through Port Republic down Mill Road and Riverside, it is really going to hinder us, it is a Saturday which would interfere with the dump. Billy would hate to lose this for Port Republic because we do get donations. Let them ride down Clark's Landing Road and make a right on Blakes Lane then let them ride down Pomona Road. That would let them have a clear shot. This wouldn't affect the dump. Before anything was changed Council President Rummler wanted to bring this before council. It would only be 3 hours instead of 8 hours. The races are in July. Councilmember Bugdon requested they attend the February council meeting. We should also invite the Fire Company.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Higher County tax for Casino bailout; Keith Davis Esq. explained the County has proposed to allow each casino, in lieu of paying taxes, to enter into a pilot agreement, which will fix their tax obligation not based on the value of their property but based on a formula of how much revenue they make as a casino. The county tax board has looked at this legislation and how it will affect the other 22 municipalities in Atlantic County. If this becomes law; what the impact will be on median assessments and what the tax obligation will be, this would lead to an increase in county taxes. The Freeholder Board met in December, adopted a resolution opposing any legislation that would allow the casino to do this.

Atlantic City Pole Electric upgrade: Mayor called Ken Mosca there is uproar about this whole proposal; it is off the table until 2017. The entire plan is being looked at. Keith Davis Esq. drafted a letter to go out to Richard Munoz of the Board of Utilities. Mayor and Council concurred.

New Flood Maps, they are having an Open House February 5, 2015 Ventnor Education Community Complex. Consult with Matt Doran about flood maps and have him look at the drafts and if they are going to affect Port Republic.

**PROCLAMATION:**

None

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Wessler and carried to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly A. Campellone  
Municipal Clerk