

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. DECEMBER 10, 2019
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 Wessler, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Stanley Kozlowski, Donna Riegel, Kevin Wessler

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Giberson, Thomas Kurtz

MAYOR: Gary Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Raymond Went, Esq.

Council President Wessler 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.

PRAYER BY PASTOR FRANK OF PORT COMMUNITY CHURCH:

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 12th, 2019 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 12, 2019 EXECUTIVE SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 2019 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police/Emergency Management:

2020 Court Calendar is posted, Mayor Giberson stated everything is going well. Mayor Giberson reminded everyone the Christmas Party for the City volunteers that will be held on 12/21/19 at 6:30 location is Fred & Ethels he hopes to see everyone there.

Administrative/Personnel:

Councilman Kozlowski stated that the personnel committee completed the employee evaluations today. Will finalize shortly and present the results to employees in January.

Public Works:

Council President Wessler stated the Public Work Department is down to one guy until after the new year, Danny is doing a good job, Councilwoman Bugdon would like to thank Public Works employee Dan Giberson for a job well done regarding the annual tree lighting event.

Recreation:

Councilwoman Bugdon mentioned how wonderful the Port Republic Tree Lighting event was a huge success, thank you to resident Bill Montag for reaching out to Hamilton Public Works for decorating the lights on the tree. A big thank you to Kim, Chris and Vicki for taking care of the hot chocolate, Jackie Keslica for volunteering to help give out the cookies and big thank you to all the cookie bakers, John Bonthron for his singing and music. Without everyone this would not be able to happen.

Fire and Ambulance:

No report.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson stated that the school went over their budget and is requesting assistance from the City. Mayor Giberson thanked Councilman Kozlowski for his help with this issue.

Planning Board:

No meeting, no report.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

During the Month of November, a total of 13 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (6) Demos (1) New (0) Additions (0) Zoning Permits (2) CO Inspections for Resale (2) Total of ()

2 code enforcement issues ongoing

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon has been dealing with several requests for aids.

Building:

Council President Wessler stated that there needs to be more water going down the drains.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS:

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

CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Kozlowski and carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Crown Castle Notification of Carrier Termination
Acknowledged

NJDOT 2020 Municipal Aid Program for Pomona Ave
Acknowledged that Port Republic was approved for the grant in the amount of \$201,270.00 the location is between Main Street and Mill.

Allen 100% Disabled Veterans Exemption
Ray Went stated that the city received a letter regarding an exemption that is applied to veterans.

RESOLUTIONS: Tabled until Paragraph (2) receives a better explanation

71-2019 authorizing the City of Port Republic to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the United State Army Corps. Of Engineers, the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, The New Jersey Department of Transportation and the County of Atlantic Related to the Proposed Replacement of Nacote Creek Bridge (PR-07) in the City of Port Republic.

Councilmember Riegel would like to bring to City Councils attention page 2 of the Memorandum paragraph 4. Councilwoman Riegel read the paragraph out loud, (WHEREAS, the USACE has invited the Atlantic County Historical Society; Doris Bugdon (Port Republic Historian) : New Jersey Historical Society; Archaeological

Society of New Jersey; Preservation New Jersey; City of Port Republic; Atlantic County Cultural and Heritage Affairs; adjacent property owners Jeffrey C. and Donna Riegel, Brion Magnani, and John C. and Diane Falivene; and Port Republic residents Nicole Rose. Anna Dabrowska. Bill; Montag. Rebecca Byrne, Kathryn Knoll, Deedee Kelly, Jill Yochim, John Yochim, Al Kincade, Matt Strickland, and Ray Lewis to consult regarding the effects of the bridge replacement on historic properties and afforded them the opportunity to comment on the proposed bridge replacement and mitigation. To date, no comments regarding the project's effect on historic properties have been received from invited consulting parties; and

Councilwoman Riegel stated that this is not true everyone on the list sent in a letter, for them to say no one made any comment it is totally false I made comments to the army corps of engineers..... Donna stated she has never been against the bridge however the traffic safety concerns her.

Councilwoman Riegel read the letter she wrote: Dear Nicole C. Minnichbach, I am writing you this letter in opposition to the replacement of the Historic 610 Bridge in Port Republic, NJ I live in a historic home circa 1792 at the foot of the bridge. The wooden crossmembers or cribbing of bridge are iconic. This bridge was used in the Movie Eddie and The Cruisers, and most long-term residents remember the filming. There are so many colorful stories of bridge keepers, summers of long ago with mischievous children opening the bridge and jumping off the bridge (when the channel was deep and wide).

This bridge has served as a gateway to our small historic town for over a century. It saddens me to know that the fabric of our community will drastically change with a new bridge that will bring Public Transportation, Tractor Trailers, Tour buses(on their way back and forth from Smithville) and speeding traffic so close to 18th and 19th century homes that are within feet of the road with no room for shoulders of any kind. This is a natural cut through to Route 9 and the Parkway. Townsfolk will no longer be able to walk, ride bikes or just enjoy our scenic town, I fear our architecture, windows, gardens and properties will be destroyed by pile-drivers, construction and increased heavy traffic. The bridge, before its closure had a 3-ton limit, w/alternate merge allowing one vehicle at a time to cross. It afforded us the luxury of harkening back to a kinder, gentler time as we waved thru our neighbors and taking time out of a busy day to enjoy the beauty of our town going over the Nacote Creek into the historic district. I pray that you can help save our town and historic homes with your expertise not only with the character of the bridge but add some safe guards such as alternate merge, weight limits, speed control, etc. to preserve our Historic homes and town. Thank you, Donna Lee Riegel.

Councilman Steven Allgeyer stated that the State and Federal Government implements the laws regarding bridges, there isn't a choice the new guidelines for the bridge is they didn't go any bigger then they need too. Councilwoman Bugdon stated as Ward II representative the people that are greatly affected are in my district. Council President Wessler stated we need a bridge Councilmember Allgeyer agreed. Councilmember Riegel would like an explanation as to how this impacts the fire trucks? Council President Wessler stated it takes extra time to go around, Councilmember Riegel stated

for two houses? Council President Wessler stated it doesn't matter that could be life or death. The other thing they will have a faster response for ambulance.

Mayor Giberson made his objections to the bridge.

72-2019 Whispering Woods for Partial Release of Funds to First Trust Bank Regarding Quality Properties, LLC and Cornerstone Communities LLC for Moss Mills Farms Major Subdivision (Whispering Woods)

On the motion of Councilmember Kozlowski, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

73-2019 Transfer Resolution

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

74-2019 Canceling the 2019 Budget Appropriations with unexpended balances

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING/PUBLIC HEARING:

08-2019 Ordinance Amending the Permitted Uses in the Marine Commercial (Mullica River) District

2nd Reading/Public Hearing

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, to open public portion seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Kozlowski and carried to adopt ordinance.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

Joe Noll Chestnut Neck, he has a concern regarding the language in the ordinance, was not aware that the ordinance states liquor license, hotels etc. Councilmember Riegel stated it has been in the ordinance a long time. City Solicitor Ray Went stated it has been in there since 1979.

Mr. Noll is concerned that someday someone may want to build a restaurant with a liquor license. City Solicitor Ray Went explained the reason this has come about is that they found out that every home in that zone is not permitted. If a resident's home burned down, it would be very expensive for the homeowner to rebuild. this ordinance is legalizing these homes. Mr. Noll is concerned with the zoning maps and exactly what zone he is in. The City Engineer will be updating the maps in 2020. The reason we added this is you put your house up for sale and people were buying cash, they would not issue a mortgage. Councilmember Riegel stated that this is to protect the homeowners, we just added single family homes, the accessory uses were in there from 1979. City Council cannot decide as to what zone you are in at this time, there is a procedure to follow. Mr. Noll would like the area to stay the way it is.

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, to close public portion seconded of Councilmember Kozlowski and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

USDA 2020 Goose Agreement the fee went to \$7,500.00

Discussion ensued, Councilmember Kozlowski stated that the USDA did say that we will need another type of disruptive patrolling like the Geese Police or something like that.

Council President Wessler would like to see this on the Agenda in January.

Councilmember Bugdon mentioned the mylar strips do work and need to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reorganization Meeting for 2020 January 7th at 6:00 pm followed by a regular City Council Meeting.

Stormwater Training for elected officials

City Clerk Campellone gave a presentation regarding Stormwater management.

ACUA 2020 Rates and Fees Public Hearing Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm
location ACUA Administration Bldg. 6700 Delilah Rd. EHT

Acknowledged

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson gave a proclamation *Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah*

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Resident Joe Martin - Mill Street, spoke regarding the speeding and traffic along his road. He stated there is no enforcement.

John Yochim mentioned that at Pitney and Riverside Drive, there is a problem no one is stopping at the stop sign.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 12-2019 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. Soil Dredging

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC Municipal Clerk