

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. January 7, 2020
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 Bugdon and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Stanley Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz, Kevin Wessler

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Giberson, Donna Riegel

MAYOR: Gary Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Ray 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.

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 10, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 10, 2019 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 17, 2019 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 17, 2019 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2020 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Mayor Giberson reported good progress. We are going to step up the stop sign detail in the future to see if we cannot stop some more people from going through stop signs. There has been good communication with the Court. Court is doing good.

Administrative/Personnel:

Councilmember Kozlowski reported everything is good. Evaluations are complete and will be reviewed this month.

Public Works:

Council President Wessler reported that we are down to one guy (Daniel Giberson) and that he is doing an excellent job right now. We need batteries for the big truck, and we might need to put it in the shop.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon stated there is not much to report since last month. She questioned if since we are down a man, could we ask Bill Montag to get in touch with Hamilton Township to take all the tree lights off. Council President Wessler responded that that is the plan.

Fire and Ambulance:

Chief John Yochim reported that everything is going well. The Fire Department just purchased a new set of airbags and they should be coming in soon. There was a pretty bad accident on Jimmie Leeds Road from Moss Mill Road not too long ago.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported there was a meeting with the school, and it was agreed to do the necessary repairs to the building the roof, siding and the windows. The rest of the repairs will follow that. Council President Wessler questioned if the school received the information from the State regarding paying about 60%. Mayor Giberson responded that he believes that was part of it, but he has not heard anything from them. Council President Wessler stated he will check into this tomorrow.

Planning Board:

No report.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

During the Month of December, a total of 5 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (2) New (0) Addition (0) Zoning Permits (2) CO Inspections (1)
Total of (8)

They will be in Court on January 8th. (Code Enforcement)

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

Councilwoman Bugdon reported she is going to start working on getting kids for the summer Clean Team. Now that the hourly wage will be increased, she needs to find out if she will be having two kids or three kids. She knows we can no longer afford to pay four. She knows one will be returning from last year. Senior Services, she is still handing out physical health aids. Council President Wessler questioned if she has enough room. Councilmember Bugdon responded that she does not have enough room and she will need more. She had previously asked if the former beach shed was available. If there is room, she could put things in there to make room. Council President Wessler stated he would check.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon seconded by Councilmember Kozlowski and carried to open public portion.

Councilmember Bugdon asked if the two young men in the audience wished to introduce themselves and explain what they are working on. Collin introduced himself

and Cole stated that they are working on a project for the Boy Scouts to obtain their Boy Scout Merit Badge. They are part of Troop 21. Councilmember Bugdon asked if they had any questions for Council. Collin asked if they know anywhere, he can volunteer for his Citizenship in the Community for a Merit Badge that would allow him 8 hours between now and February 3rd. Councilmember Bugdon told him to give her his information after the meeting.

Chief John Yochim questioned what the City is going to do with the two homes on Blakes Lane and Pomona Road. He says they are not livable. He had spoke with Kevin Cain before and was told that in Pleasantville there is an ordinance that gives a property owner a timeframe to clean up. No one wants to buy a beautiful house across the street. Attorney Went stated that he would reach out to Kevin Cain. Usually what happens is a notice goes out saying this is an unsafe structure and it need to either be fixed or demolished by a certain time. If they do not do it, the City will do it and we will charge them and assess them for it. Council President Wessler stated that he had spoke to Kevin Cain with Chief Yochim and that Kevin is supposed to be getting the ordinance to Clerk Campellone for Council to review. Attorney Went said we can assess tickets but if we want to have the house torn down, if it's not touched, it's a little bit longer process. There is an appeal process to the County Board of Construction. We should look at this quickly if we want to do this. Chief Yochim expressed concern that there could be someone living in there. Attorney Went said that is why we need to send out notices and if there is anyone in there, we can deal with them. Councilmember Kurtz asked if there is anything that Council can do currently. Attorney Went said we would have to look into the Code. Attorney Went said he and Kevin Cain can sit and go over everything.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Animal Capture & Control Services for 2019

36 animal patrols were conducted. 48 animal calls were received. 9 dogs were captured in the City and taken to the animal shelter or returned to the owner. 20 cats were captured in the City and taken to the animal shelter or returned to the owner. 28 investigations were conducted. 2 racoons were captured.

Letter dated December 11, 2019, from City Engineer Matt Doran regarding Turner Major Subdivision Holly Creek Road / Moss Mill Road

The letter was read by Council President Wessler.

RESOLUTIONS:

41-2020 Authorizing a Reduction of a Performance Guarantee subject to a Maintenance Guarantee for Holly Creek Subdivision

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

01-2020 Setting a Policy Regarding Refunds in Connection with the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Veterans Deemed to be Totally Disabled

First Reading/Introduction

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

Councilman Allgeyer questioned if this is the one where we would be going back. Councilmember Kozlowski responded no, this states that going forward if any tax claims are made they will be subject to when the claim is filed and approved. It will not go back in time. It protects the City's interest going forward. Tax Assessor Bill Johnson stated that about a year and half ago, the State broadened the requirements and law for 100% disabled veterans to be able to qualify for full tax exemption. Prior to this, we would maybe get one application a year. Now, in his full-time town, they are averaging about 12 a year. The law says that you may, upon written request of a property owner, go back retroactively. This ordinance is saying that when you get your letter from the VA declaring you to be 100% disabled, you have an obligation to go into the Assessor and file a timely application.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2020 USDA Goose Agreement

Council President Wessler feels we need to continue this at least another year.

Councilmember Allgeyer felt it helped a lot last year.

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

NEW BUSINESS:

Attorney Went noticed that we get started at 6:30 pm, which is when we publish the start of our meetings, and we have a half hour work session. However, it only takes

about 5 minutes to sign the bills. He is suggesting that perhaps the regular meeting start at 6:45 pm, rather than 7:00 pm. He doesn't think we should do it immediately, but maybe starting in March or April. Councilmember Bugdon suggested posting it on

Facebook. Mayor Giberson suggested doing a robo call to let everyone know. Council is in agreeance.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson stated be good to one another. And to continue to grow our minds, our thoughts, our ambitions, and our work ethics to keep this town the way everybody wants it and everybody loves it.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Chief John Yochim asked what is happening with the bridge. Council President Wessler stated he put a call into our Freeholder, and he has not heard back yet. He hopes next meeting he will have more information. Mayor Giberson said he would contact County Executive Dennis Levinson

Chief John Yochim stated he just received the readings for what the Fire Department has done in the last year. They had 44 calls. Their busiest days are Wednesdays. Their slowest days were Monday nights. He believes they only had 2 Monday night calls. They had 9 calls on the Parkway. He would like to thank the residents being so good that they don't have to run for smoke detectors and CO alarms. They only had about 22 calls in Port, the rest were assist.

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 1-2020 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. Veteran Tax Exemption
2. Soil Dredging

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer seconded of Councilmember Kozlowski and carried to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC Municipal Clerk