

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 p.m. MARCH 10, 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, Roger Giberson, Stanley Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz, Donna Riegel, Kevin Wessler

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:**

**MAYOR:** Gary B. 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.

**Pastor Frank Brown gave the invocation**

**MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 27, 2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

**MINUTES:**

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:** Kurtz

**MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 11, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:** Kurtz

**MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 25, 2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 2020 BILL LIST**

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS**

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

***BUDGET 2020***

***First Reading/Introduction***

ORDINANCE 03-2020      Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

***First Reading/Introduction***

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

RESOLUTION 45-2020      Self Examination of Budget Resolution

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

RESOLUTION 46-2020 Resolution Authorizing the Budget be Read by Title Only  
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried.

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

RESOLUTION 47-2020 Resolution Authorizing Introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Police/Emergency Management:**

Mayor Giberson reported good progress.

#### **Administrative/Personnel:**

Councilmember Kozlowski reported that Public Works Employee Daniel Giberson resigned as of today and gave his two weeks notice.

#### **Public Works:**

Council President Wessler reported that the Public Works Department are working on the dugouts, replacing the wood and painting the dugouts before the season starts.

Councilmember Bugdon mentioned that Councilmember Kurtz will be redoing the threshold for the concession stand. Councilmember Kurtz stated that he would be tearing the whole door out. The City will be providing the material.

Council President Wessler reported that the dump truck is in the shop. It needs a new oil pan. It also needs a new generator or alternator.

#### **Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that they have had The Sand Sharks, Outlaws and Weekstown Community Church apply for use of the field. They are waiting on Absecon Methodist to join them. They are waiting for their certificates of insurance before they can utilize the field.

#### **Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that everything is going well. There were no fires this month.

**Board of School Estimates:**

Mayor Giberson reported that he received a report from the school listing the school budget cuts for 2020. The school reported that they have lost \$114,000.00 in special ed costs. They have lost approximately \$300,000.00 for special education students from Port Republic. The school's budget is the same as last year, but the funding is down. The budget calls for a tax increase of 4.9 cents. The Board of School Estimates has not met yet regarding this amount. Mayor Giberson feels it will be very difficult to try and get the amount down.

Councilmember Giberson added that the school had planned on losing \$40,000.00 from state funding, but they are ending up losing an additional \$80,000.00 from what they anticipated losing. Todd D'Anna, the school administrator, took the \$80,000.00 loss from their surplus. Councilmember Giberson does not know if there will be some sort of class action suit against the state because there was a real disparity.

Councilmember Giberson does not think there is any way that the City will not have that tax increase coming from the school. The school really tried to get everything to the bare minimum.

Councilmember Giberson asked Mr. Ropecki, in the audience, if he would like to add anything. Mr. Ropecki added that 3-4 years ago our out-of-district special education placement cost was \$40,000.00 a year and this year it will be \$350,000.00. Councilmember Giberson asked if anyone was looking into doing anything. Mr. Ropecki responded that it hasn't happened here. Mayor Giberson asked if there is any chance in joining in on a class action suit. Mr. Ropecki responded that they will look into it. Mayor Giberson said that they more cities that are involved, the more pressure.

**Planning Board:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met last night for an application from Mr. Simone from Holly Creek. He came before the board for a variance which was unanimously approved. Informally, Mr. Darcy came on behalf of the Mannis, looking for an opinion on a subdivision on Chestnut Neck Road. The Board sees no problem with this and told them to go forward with submitting an application with the Environmental Department and others. That application will be coming forth in a couple of months she presumes.

**Construction Department / Code Enforcement:**

During the Month of February, a total of 10 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (2) Demos (0) New (0) Addition (0) Zoning Permits (1) CO Inspections for Resale (2) Total of (5)

Kevin Cain is working on one ongoing complaint.

**Senior Services/Clean Communities:**

Councilmember Budgon reported that she has been inundated with requests. She is very happy she can supply people with serious needs with the supplies that she has.

She is down to one lightweight wheelchair. She does have a number of lightweight things that can be utilized. She has 3 electric lightweight chairs in service. She also has a scooter that is in use. This program has been a godsend to the people in need. She never wants to see this program leave. She thanked Councilmember Giberson for a previous donation he had made. She was able to buy a wheelchair that was needed with the money.

Council President Wessler, on behalf of Council, thanked Councilmember Bugdon for starting the program and keeping up with it.

Mayor Giberson said that he would be purchasing two new walkers out of his budget.

**Building:**

No report

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thank you letter from City of Somers Point Mayor John Glasser to Mayor Giberson regarding the Port Republic Fire Department and their assistance with the fire at Sure Storage in Somers Point

*Acknowledged*

Thank you card from Joe and Donna Martin

*Acknowledged*

Public Notice of CAFRA Permit Major Modification Application Ole Hansen and Sons Proposed Resource Extraction Facility

*Acknowledged*

Letter from Sandra Turner closing of account for Holly Creek

*Council President Wessler stated that City Engineer Matt Doran is suggesting that the City hold some of the money to cover the basins. He said we can look into how much of the money can be released.*

Letter from Patricia Diamond of the Atlantic County Department of Human Services regarding the education program entitled "Respiratory Viruses including Coronavirus"

*Acknowledged*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**48-2020** Authorizing Membership in a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Participating Units

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**49-2020**      Declaring the City of Port Republic a Second Amendment/Lawful Gun Owner Sanctuary

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

*Councilmember Bugdon asked Attorney Went if he knew the wording that Atlantic County had used when they passed their Resolution. Councilmember Giberson stated the he does not feel we should change the wording and we should pass the resolution as it is. Councilmember Bugdon agreed.*

*Councilmember Kurtz questioned if this resolution was political theatre. He wanted to know if the State has already passed a resolution declaring this, does it mean anything if we do as a City. Council President Wessler responded that it is political theatre, but if we pass this, it shows that the City is in support and if all the cities around do it, it will mean something.*

*Councilmember Kurtz questioned the Second Amendment Movement group if they support background checks. They responded absolutely. He then asked if they feel that the average citizen has the right to own an automatic weapon. They responded no and that automatic weapons are illegal in the State of New Jersey. They do not discuss their feelings amongst themselves, but they are in support of law-abiding citizens.*

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:** Kurtz

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**50-2020**      Appointment of Labor Attorney

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**51-2020**      Emergency Temporary Appropriations 2020

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**52-2020**      Release of Cash Bond for Moss Mills Farms Major Subdivision  
(Whispering Woods)

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

*Attorney Went explained the history of the cash bond on file for Whispering Woods. The City had a letter of credit which was chipped away, based on work getting done. Then ultimately, the bank said that they would not be renewing the letter of credit. In*

*lieu of that, the City insisted that the owner of the subdivision put up a cash bond. The contingent was that if they were to submit a bond or letter of credit which was acceptable to himself and the City Engineer, the City would release the cash bond to the owner. They have since submitted a letter of credit and it is sufficient. He feels Council should release the cash bond.*

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ORDINANCES:**

**04-2020** Salary Ordinance

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading/Introduction*

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

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**02-2020** Capital Ordinance

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing*

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

*Council President explained that they have put forth a Capital Ordinance in the amount of \$95,000.00 to buy a new small dump truck.*

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, to close public portion seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried to adopt ordinance.

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Atlantic City Electric Laydown Proposal – Block 38, Lot 1

*Council President stated that Atlantic City Electric has counteroffered \$1,500.00 a month. He thinks we should accept. Councilmember Bugdon agrees. Attorney Went has an issue with the contract. He would like to see an insurance provision for \$1,000,000.00 and \$2,000,000.00 aggregate, naming the City as additional insured.*

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Kurtz and carried to approve..

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

Property – Abandoned and Vacant Ordinance from Kevin Cain

*Council President Wessler stated that the Ordinance was in Council's packet. He questioned if the Ordinance should go before the Zoning Board and they can make a recommendation to Council. Attorney Went agreed. Councilmember Riegel said that they also need Chapter 111 from Pleasantville for background.*

*Council will read over the Ordinance and come back next meeting. Council President Wessler feels this should be handled by a committee. He named the following onto the committee: Councilmember Giberson as Chair, Councilmember Riegel and Councilmember Kurtz.*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Letter from Louis Diguardia regarding New Irrigation Well Permit, Construction, Testing and Old Irrigation Well Decommissioning Records for 400 English Creek Road, Port Republic, New Jersey

*Council President Wessler stated that they had a 300' well and it was tested, and the water test has come back favorable. The old well was decommissioned.*

Eagle Scout Presentation

*Councilmember Bugdon introduced Scott Ropecki. She explained that he is working on his Eagle Scout project. He would like to use the old container pick up site as a field for lacrosse practice.*

*Scott Ropecki stated that he has been working with Councilmember Bugdon for about a month to work out the details of creating a lacrosse field at the old dump site. He goes by it everyday and it is a huge unused beautiful lot. He thinks with a little bit of care they can make it into something really beautiful. His plan is to fill the crevasses with topsoil, take out the rocks, line it, make a shed, put a split rail fence in front of it and make it look really nice. They have lacrosse frames for the nets. They can be used for the new field. The dimensions of the field fit about one field and it is almost regulation size. There is a little field on Zurich in Galloway Township which is a little scaled down. He is trying to do the same with this field. A regulation field is about 330', but he still feels this is plenty of unused space and it would be the best place to have a field there. He has plenty of volunteers that are willing to help him. This includes members from his Boy Scout Troop and other members from the City. If approved, his plan to start this project would be summer, late May or early June. He believes it could be finished by early July. The field will have a shed, with a lined field and a split rail fence to stop people from driving onto the field. He will make it look as nice as he possibly can, and he hopes that Council will approve of it.*



Councilmember Allgeyer asked if the field can be utilized for other sports besides lacrosse. Scott replied that most regulation sports fields are about the same size and it will be a great multi-sport field.

Councilmember Giberson stated that the only issue they have is that they never officially closed that landfill. It is still considered a landfill site and we have been working with Pinelands to try to alleviate that and get it officially closed. Unfortunately, there has not yet been a resolution. He is unsure how that would affect anything that we would want to do out there. The State is still monitoring wells on the site at this time. However, there has never been any issues. He suggested that Scott could contact the Pinelands to see if he could get any movement on this. If he could do that, he would recommend moving forward. He likes the idea he has and supports it 100%, but we do have to make sure that the area gets closed. That will be the one thing that stands in the way.

Councilmember Giberson told Scott that he could contact City Clerk Kim Campellone and that she would be able to give him contact information. Councilmember Kozlowski said that if Scott needed a letter or anything from Council, he can let them know.

Councilmember Bugdon stated that she can work with Scott and Kim to get this moving. She said that if this is possible, she will provide cans at the field for recycling and trash. She is working with Bill Smallwood regarding the baseball shed that is at the field now. If the baseball organizations that use it are not going to refurbish it, Bill will put a new shed there to replace it. After, he will have the company he is dealing with move the existing shed to this new field and they can refurbish it. This will save them a lot of money. She will let them have the frames for the lacrosse nets that are currently here on the field. If they work with her for Community Clean Up Day, she will get them other frames and two sets of nets. She would like to get on this and work with The Pinelands to get this settled.

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Kurtz and carried to approve.

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel, Wessler

**NO:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

Changing the start time of City Council Meetings

Attorney Went explained that Council has discussed changing the start time of the work session. Beginning in May, the work session will begin at 6:15 pm and will last 15 minutes. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm, as has always been advertised.

Port Republic School Improvements

Councilmember Giberson discussed the list which was provided to Council at their last meeting of the improvements that the school is looking to do. Councilmember

*Giberson, along with Council President Wessler and Councilmember Allgeyer agree that the main things that need to be done are the roof, siding and windows. He asked if Council had a chance to review the list and how they wanted to move forward with this. Todd D'Anna is going to start going out for RFIs for an architect. He does not need funding in place to take care of that. That process will be to find an architect to see who will move forward and be awarded the job. Council needs to speak with Bond Counsel and really decide where the funding is going to come from.*

*Councilmember Riegel questioned if the boiler would be part of the job. Councilmember Giberson responded that it is all part of it, but the roof, siding and the windows are really what need to be taken care of. Council President Wessler explained that this would be the first initiative.*

*Councilmember Giberson reiterated that Council needs to decide what they are going to approve so they can move forward with funding. Council President Wessler questioned that he is going to go out for his RFIs to get prices for all of these things, wouldn't that be the time to decide what Council is going to fund. Councilmember Giberson responded that he is unsure. He cannot remember how it was done with City Hall, if they already had the bids in place and then they went out for funding. Councilmember Riegel said that it would have had to been done that way because if not then they wouldn't have known what it was going to cost.*

*Councilmember Giberson suggested that Council have Bond Counsel at our next City Council Meeting to make sure they have the time frame. He realizes it will take a couple of meetings to introduce it and then have a public hearing. He said that Todd D'Anna was going to ask for everything that was included on the list in the bid, but it would be separated by different projects. The bid will not be in one large sum, it will be broken down into line items. Council President believes that the State will still put up 60% of the bonded amount. If this is the case, we may be able to do more of what the school wishes to do.*

*Councilmember Kurtz asked if our fire department has protective equipment needed to protect them from Coronavirus. Council President Wessler responded that it was a great question because he does not believe that our fire department does. He will mention it to the Chief to look into this. Mayor Giberson asked Councilmember Kozlowski if they could work on this through Emergency Management. Councilmember Kozlowski believes things are being worked on. The Governor just declared an emergency in the state. This will allow them to expedite a lot of the things that they are talking about. Whether it be money or making new rules and regulations. He will reach out.*

*Councilmember Bugdon stated that City Hall should have plenty of hand sanitizer and keep all surfaces clean. Council President suggested that after each Court session the building be cleaned. Council agreed.*

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Giberson proclaimed that March should be planting time. This should be a time to get out your seeds and get them into the ground. We will have an unbelievable growing season this year. Plant your gardens and get your seeds out.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Roger Dutch from Absecon thanked Council for voting yes on Resolution 49-2020. He really appreciates it and is very grateful.

Joe Martin, Mill Street, questioned if there is an update on the bridge. Councilmember Giberson responded that Clerk Campellone called the County today and they said that they hope to be starting construction in mid-summer to late fall.

Sandy Hickerson from Absecon thanked Council for passing Resolution 49-2020. As a law-abiding gun owner, she thanked them for supporting the Second Amendment. Councilmember Giberson thanked her for all they are doing.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC Municipal Clerk