

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. OCTOBER 8, 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 Kozlowski and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Roger Giberson, Stanley Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz, Kevin Wessler

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Doris Bugdon, Donna Riegel

MAYOR: Gary Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Keith Davis, 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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 2019 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Betsy Daniels English Creek Rd, took a picture of a street sign that reads “Cross traffic does not stop” she had seen this sign in Pennsylvania years ago and more recently in Egg Harbor City at the intersection of Philadelphia Avenue and Duerer Street. She sent the picture to Clerk Campellone to provide to Council. Betsy feels this sign could help eliminate some of the confusion at the intersection of Moss Mill and English Creek. Council President Wessler explained that this sign would need to be done by the County, not the City. City Council can ask the County for a sign like this.

CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Mayor Giberson reported good progress. Council will have a copy of all the tickets issued from the Parkway and in town. Everything is going well, and our Court is busy. The Court Office is paying for itself, plus some other funds. For Emergency Management, there is a meeting coming up. Councilmember Kozlowski attended the County meeting and a meeting with Galloway Township. The meeting at Galloway Township was also attended by Absecon. The meeting was about setting up command posts and combined communication. It was mostly for Galloway Township, with an invitation to Port Republic.

Administrative/Personnel:

Councilmember Kozlowski reported that they are working on a few items regarding personnel and policies. The committee is considering an annual review for employees. They will present to City Council in the next couple months.

Public Works:

Council President Wessler reported that the Public Works Committee had met and discussed a few ideas, regarding implementing stickers to be used for access to the City's Transfer Station (Dump) They did not come to much of an agreement on the issue. What they did come up with, is that every resident will receive two stickers. Residents will need to show registration belonging to them for both vehicles if they want two stickers. The city will not offer any more than two. If anything is to happen to their vehicles, they can scrape off the sticker and bring it in to obtain a new one. This way, whoever is attending the dump can just look for stickers and not have to worry about registrations, licenses etc. It will cause a little more of an inconvenience in the beginning, but once it's done it is done. Mayor Giberson questioned if the stickers have numbers on them. Clerk Campellone stated she has put numbers on the stickers. Mayor Giberson stated that the City does have an Ordinance in place that says the

Transfer Station is for Port Republic residents only and if anyone breaks that Ordinance the fine is substantial. Mayor Giberson would also like to ask the New Jersey State Troopers to place a car at the curve going into the dump. Mayor Giberson stated that one of the biggest problems this town has is the tonnage we pay. He thinks this is a great idea and he hopes it works. Councilmember Allgeyer questioned when will this process begin? Councilmember Kozlowski asked if we have notified residents in any way, Clerk Campellone stated no, because there was no timeline as to when this is going to be implemented.

Councilmember Allgeyer questioned if it could be done on a Wednesday or a Saturday at the dump? Council President Wessler and Councilmember Giberson agreed that was a good idea. Mayor Giberson is hopeful this will work. Councilmember Giberson expressed his concern in the possibility of getting push back from residents having to put something onto their cars. Council President Wessler stated the sticker will be placed on the rearview mirror of each vehicle. Councilmember Giberson had thought the sticker was going to be on their bumpers.

Councilmember Allgeyer stated that another topic that was brought up at their meeting was possibly looking into an aluminum body for the dump truck, depends on pricing. Councilmember Giberson asked if we had already put a spec together to look for a truck. Council President Wessler explained that we did, but a week after putting it out the gentleman that was helping them from Gentilini Ford told them that they stopped production of the 4 X 4 and we would have to wait until the 2020 version is available. However, they are stopping production again since they are on strike.

Recreation:

No report

Fire and Ambulance:

Chief Yochim reported that the Fire Department received an \$8,000 grant. They are putting that money towards their air bottles and refill stations. This grant will help the Fire Department a lot. Chief Yochim mentioned that the fire Department was called out to City Hall last Wednesday evening for a fire alarm, he wanted to make sure everyone knows that any time, no matter who is in City Hall or what is going on, when the fire alarm is going off in City Hall everyone must exit the building until someone from the Fire Department checks to see what is going on. He realizes Court was in session, but it does not matter. If something happens, the City will be liable. The alarm system should not just be shut off because they are unable to tell where the alarm is coming from. Mayor Giberson will meet with the Court Administrator to explain the procedure.

Councilmember Giberson questioned why LOSAP is on the upcoming ballot. Council President Wessler explained that anytime you change the amount for LOSAP it must go in front of the tax payers as a referendum on the ballot.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson stated everything is good at the school. They are in the process of hiring an architect to do some work. The school also sent the City a bill for a contribution to their computer programming which will be discussed later.

Planning Board:

No report

Code Enforcement/Construction:

No report

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

Resident Betsy Daniels wanted to address City Council on how much of a help Councilwoman Doris Bugdon was to her when her husband Jim was coming home from the hospital. They were able to get a hospital bed and everything else they needed. She doesn't know what she would have done without it. It's such a wonderful service and is such a relief to the residents. Mayor Giberson stated how much we appreciate Doris and the efforts she has made.

Building:

Council President Wessler reiterated from his report at last month's meeting that we need to continue to run more water down the drains.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Ranae Fehr regarding Replacement of County Bridge PR-07 over Nacote Creek

Acknowledged, letter read into record

Letter from Katherine Marcopul Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the Replacement of the County Bridge PR-07

Acknowledged by Council. Council President Wessler stated this is the last step, they just now need to come to agreements with the residents alongside the bridge.

Councilmember Allgeyer questioned how long this should take; he is hoping this cannot be drawn out. Council President Wessler feels they are going to move forward one way or another. Mayor Giberson stated they would move forward with eminent domain if necessary. Councilmember Kurtz questioned how long the bridge has been closed so far. Councilmember Giberson responded it has been about a year so far. He stated that the problem is the bridge would have been built already if it was not for one family that is no longer here, and the residents of Port Republic are now stuck without a bridge. Everyone is now on board and it is time. Council President Wessler would like to send a letter to the County from Council affirming Council's support. This will be addressed with Resolution No. 66-2019 listed next on the Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS:

66-2019 Resolution Supporting the Replacement/Improvements of the Nacote Creek Bridge

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

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

First Reading/Introduction

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

USDA Letter to Mayor Giberson regarding geese control

Clerk Campellone explained that the letter gives a breakdown as to what they did and the costs. Councilmember Allgeyer stated that living along the pond, this year he does not have geese. Councilmember Giberson feels they need to do something on a countywide or statewide level. Councilmember Kurtz stated that we also had no beach closures this year. Mayor Giberson stated that himself and Clerk Campellone will be attending the League of Municipalities and they will meet with Kerry Plugh with the DEP and see if they can get a statewide program implemented. Councilmember Kurtz pointed out we have a swan now. Clerk Campellone stated she has observed three swans in Nacote Creek. Mayor Giberson says the geese are afraid of the swans.

County Route 610 Bridge

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memo from Jenna Kelly, CFO Port Republic School Bills

Port Republic School Business Administrator Todd D'Anna provided a packet to CFO Jenna Kelly which is requesting the City reimburse the school in the amount of \$28,745. CFO Jenna Kelly spoke with City Auditor Nancy Sbrolla who says we typically use a certain type of fund to pay for this. Councilmember Giberson says we can use that fund if we put money in there for it, but if we did not budget for it then there is nothing. He does not remember us budgeting any funds on the City side, unless it was part of the school's budget that came to the City to be approved. Councilmember Giberson stated even if it was capitol expenses, it did not get approved in our budget process. Clerk Campellone pointed out that he is referencing an email correspondence from June 28, 2018 and we had a different CFO at that time. Clerk Campellone will reach out to CFO Jenna Kelly and Business Administrator Todd D'Anna Business Administrator.

Best Practice 2019/2020

Clerk Campellone stated that the Best Practices are due October 30th and it is being worked on now. She needs to have this placed on the Agenda for Council to be aware. Council President Wessler questioned what this is. Clerk Campellone explained that it is a questionnaire that is mandatory through which the State obtains vital information about the status of municipal government practices in New Jersey it also assesses each municipality's compliance with various laws and evaluates implementation of fiscal and operational best practices. The inventory answers provide taxpayers with an additional means of evaluating their municipality's performance, including how tax dollars are utilized. Clerk Campellone will have the inventory on the next agenda with the results.

PROCLAMATIONS:

09-2019 Mayor Giberson stated that he is concerned with the changing times. Not many kids are riding their bikes or walking to school, but stay mindful of those that do, especially early in the morning.

Councilmember Kurtz asked if Council was aware of the incident that happened at the school the other week. Council President Wessler responded no. Councilmember Kurtz explained that there was an adult asking a child on his way to school if he needed a ride. The child did not know the adult. There was a parent behind him, and the kid was smart. The State Troopers are involved. This has happened in other communities around here.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC Municipal Clerk