

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
REGULAR VIRTUAL (ZOOM) CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Donna Riegel, Kevin Wessler

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Stanley Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz

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.

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 11, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 22, 2020 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 2020 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management

Mayor Giberson stated that Trooper Dean Sauchelli was on tonight's call. Trooper Sauchelli did not have a report but stated that he could request any reports or information that Council would like for the next meeting. Mayor Giberson would like to meet with the troopers to go over some hot spots in town. Councilmember Bugdon requested to attend that meeting as well.

Council President Wessler asked everyone to stand in a moment of silence in honor of Deanna Krupp and her family in the loss of her son Jake Nawrocki.

Mayor Giberson suggested that the City plant a tree in Jake's honor. Councilmember Bugdon suggested that they put lacrosse nets permanently in a field in his honor. Mayor Giberson agreed, but they would have to find a way to protect them. Councilmember Bugdon explained that with COVID-19, the project in converting the old dump into a lacrosse field has been put on hold. She suggested that they could dedicate the field to Jake once the project is completed. Mayor Giberson thinks that is a wonderful idea. Council President Wessler would like to see a plaque along with the tree being planted in Jake's honor. Councilmember Bugdon will be handling this.

Administrative/Personnel:

No report

Public Works:

Mayor Giberson reported that he has scheduled meetings weekly to meet with the Public Works employees to get their input.

Council President Wessler reported that the freightliner is back. There are still some U-bolts that need to be replaced. However, everything that is serious has been done. Potholes throughout town have been patched. The dugouts have been painted and repaired. Councilmember Allgeyer was kind enough to fix the roof of the gazebo. The gazebo needs a new roof. Councilmember Bugdon added that for next year's budget we need to plan on refurbishing the deck in the gazebo and the railings.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon stated that the beach badge report is in the packet. Yesterday, September 7th, the season ended. The lifeguards closed and cleaned as necessary. The Public Works employees can remove the shed and lifeguard stand whenever is good for them. We had a wonderful season.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that he spoke with Chief John Yochim and the Fire Department received several grants which allowed the Fire Department to purchase several items that they needed. They received 20 new pagers, and air bags. The Fire Department was tested for COVID-19 and instead of costing \$900 it was \$450. They will be having a drive thru dinner on October 3rd. It will be \$15 per person. The FD is still having an issue with Barille with his fence. The FD has done everything they need to do, so Councilmember Allgeyer believes it is in the City's ballpark now to pursue this. The FD cannot put up their fence because Barille has not moved his fence. Kevin Cain, Code Enforcement Officer, should be aware of this issue. Councilmember Bugdon would like to get the attorney involved.

Council President Wessler reported that they took the 21-2 tanker down the Cleggs today to get some mechanical work on it. It should be done by tomorrow.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported that he has been checking in for the latest news with the school administrator. He has nothing solid to report at this time, but things are moving rather quickly as school will be opening sometime next week he believes. There are plans and contingencies being made to make sure that the teachers and the students will all be safe. Council President Wessler is concerned that they may not have the cleaning items needed to treat the rooms yet because everything is backordered. Councilmember Bugdon questioned if there was a full-time nurse at the school. Nikki Giberson replied that the nurse is full-time. Council President Wessler asked if the school has received infrared or anything to clean the rooms. Nikki Giberson responded that they have an atomizer and they have special cleaning products that is used with it. They are really on top of everything in her opinion. All desks have vinyl protectors around them. All desks are socially distanced. They have tents placed outside for outdoor learning. Councilmember Bugdon added that the school has been approved to utilize Harry Bowen Field as well.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel stated that there was no meeting this past month. Members of the Planning Board met on August 18th to discuss Ordinance 06-2020 (unfit dwellings). The Planning Board does not feel that the Ordinance was ever meant for Port Republic. Councilmember Riegel and Councilmember Giberson agree that they only need to "beef up" the property maintenance code and just work with that. Councilmember Riegel stated that we need the attorney to come up with the necessary language. Councilmember Giberson explained that the City already has a pretty strong property

ordinance in place. He thinks they can work with that. Councilmember Giberson was unable to get in contact with Councilmember Kurtz to speak with him about this. Councilmember Giberson is going to continue working with Councilmember Riegel and the City's Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Cain. Councilmember Giberson asked Clerk Campellone to forward the current property maintenance code to Council. Councilmember Riegel stated that they want to make sure this only applies to vacant/unoccupied homes.

Construction Department / Code Enforcement:

During the Month of August, a total of 9 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (5) Demos (0) New (0) Additions (1) Zoning Permits (3) CO Inspections for Resale (0) Total of (9)

Kevin Cain is working on a Code Enforcement issues at the following location:

- 55 Mill Street

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has received a lot of requests. She has also received several pieces of equipment being returned. The program is still going strong.

Building:

No report

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from David Goddard, Ole Hansen, Continuing Lease Through 2021 (Third Addendum to Lease Agreement for Gravel Mining)

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to continue the lease agreement with Ole Hansen for gravel mining dated July 1, 2020.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

Email from Eileen Langley, Manager of Chestnut Lake RV Campground Regarding Extension of Season Due to COVID-19 Causing Delayed Opening (Kevin Cain, Code Enforcement Officer, is in favor of one-time extension)

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to allow the extension of Chestnut Neck Lake RV camping season be extended by one (1) month for this year only.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

Council discussed whether a caretaker can stay on the property. Council agreed that a caretaker can and should be on the property.

Resolution from Mullica Township Supporting Mullica Township Police Department
Councilmember Bugdon feels that all Atlantic County Police Departments should not be defunded, they should be supported.

Councilmember Giberson made a motion to support the Mullica Township Police Department and all Atlantic County Police Departments, including State Police.

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this City Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

RESOLUTIONS:

69-2020 Resolution Regarding the State of New Jersey to Provide Additional Funding for Dredging Projects
Dredging of Nacote Creek (email from Matt Doran)

70-2020 Conflict Public Defender

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION (HOLD)

06-2020 Ordinance Regarding Unfit Dwelling and Other Buildings

This ordinance will be postponed until the Planning Board can review and give their recommendation and opinion. Council discussed earlier in the meeting, under the Planning Board's report. Ordinance has died for a lack of a motion and will not move forward.

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING/ADOPTION

08-2020 Ordinance Limiting the Number of Telecommunications Towers in the City
Public Hearing/Adoption

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, to open public portion seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried that the ordinance shall read that the municipality shall not exceed four (4) towers.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

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

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

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Riegel, Wessler

NO:

ABSENT: Kozlowski, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Gazebo Roof is in Need of Replacement (Thank you Steve Allgeyer for patching roof)
This will be added into next years budget, along with the deck and railings.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson proclaimed to be kind to one another and have a safe fall. Look out for school buses and flashing lights.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, had previously spoken with Mayor Giberson regarding two topics. One was the speeding issue on his portion of Mill Street. It has not stopped, and the detour traffic is horrendous. It presents an unsafe situation for walkers and bikers. Mr. Martin has seen no enforcement. This holds true for other streets as well, but Mill Street is the one he knows about and sees every day. The other issue he discussed with Mayor Giberson was the bridge. He had spoken Linda Gilmore who is

the Atlantic County spokesman who told him that it is the NJDOT who is stalling the bridge bid. The County is very frustrated. Mr. Martin called the NJDOT and spoke with Kimberly Nance, who is a regional coordinator, although not our region. Kimberly Nance said she would call Linda Gilmore but that did not happen. Mr. Martin has given contact numbers to both of these women to Mayor Giberson. He is asking if anyone on Council has heard from them or if they have heard any news on the project.

Clerk Campellone stated that she had reached out to the County Engineer, Doug DiMeo, and he explained that everything is being held back because of COVID-19. People were furloughed and working from home. He did also mention the NJDOT. Clerk Campellone will reach out to them this week and see if there have been any updated on the status of the project. Last she heard, they were going to be going to bid at the end of August, but she is unaware if they did that. Attorney Went added that the State's holdups are across the board. Things are being delayed many months.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC Municipal Clerk