

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. DECEMBER 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, Stan Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Giberson, Kevin Wessler

MAYOR: Gary B. Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Ray Went, Esq.

Councilmember Kozlowski 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 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 NOVEMBER 10, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Bugdon, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN: Allgeyer, Kurtz

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 2020 BILL LIST

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

YES: Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN: Allgeyer

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management

Mayor Giberson reported that he has received calls from many residents thanking him for the activity of the State Police throughout the community. He is very happy that things are working out well.

Administrative/Personnel

Councilmember Kozlowski reported that they are beginning to work on budgets. Over the next few weeks they will be working on employee evaluations.

Public Works:

Councilmember Kozlowski read the December 2020 Public Works Council Report. The report stated the following:

- Continued bi-annual storm drain cleaning of all inlets, swales, and basins
- Continuing to cut and maintain roadways
- Lowered the pond level twice prior and during two rain events
- Replaced and raised multiple street (3) and stop signs (1) throughout the town
- We are no longer accepting rigid plastics at the dump/recycling center (ACUA rule)
- Worked alongside Hamilton DPW putting up Christmas lights on town tree (12/2)
- Completed repairs and preventative maintenance to the SaltDogg v-box spreader

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that even though we were unable to hold our Annual Tree Lighting Event, the tree was lit this year by 3-year old Jonas Sancrany and his family on Thursday, December 3rd. The tree itself is dying and is looking bad, especially on the Main Street side. She has some ideas that she will bring to Council in January.

Fire and Ambulance

Councilmember Allgeyer spoke with Chief Yochim who advised that the tanker is back after having issues fixed. Chief Yochim also requested that the workers on Riverside Drive notify dispatch at least two days in advance of where in town they will be working to make alternate routes, if needed, for emergency vehicles. Mayor Giberson responded that Atlantic City Electric has their own flaggers and will automatically allow emergency vehicles to come into an area. Councilmember Riegel stated that there is a tentative work schedule listed on the Agenda and we could get that schedule to Chief Yochim. Clerk Campellone stated that she has sent the schedule to dispatch in Galloway as well as an email to the contractors and Atlantic City Electric. They responded to her that everything will be taken care of.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported that while other area schools are going fully virtual, Port School will remain with their hybrid schedule for their students.

Planning Board

Councilmember Riegel reported that they have not received any applications and therefore did not hold a December meeting. Their annual reorganization meeting will be on January 11, 2021.

Construction Department / Code Enforcement:

No report

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that for Senior Services she has received a request for two pieces and has had no returns. She additionally reported for Clean Communities that on Saturday, November 21st Troop 21, under Jake Nass, a clean up was conducted from the city line of Pitney Road, around the bridge and on Riverside Drive up to Mill Street. During the cleanup they picked up 9 50-gallon trash bags of trash and 7 50-gallon recyclable bags. At the intersection of Riverside Drive and Pitney Road they found 9 full gallons of spent motor oil. In that same area they found 30 large beer cans and 4 tires. She thanked Troop 21 for their great job. Mayor Giberson added that he will be requesting that the State Police monitor this situation for us.

CORRESPONDENCE:

NJDOT 2021 Municipal Aid Program for Wilson Avenue
Acknowledged

ACUA – 2021 Rates – Fee Public Hearing December 17, 2020 at 3:00 pm, 6700 Delilah Road, EHT
Acknowledged

Port Republic Court Calendar 2021
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

76-2020 Transfer Resolution 2020

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN:

77-2020 Resolution to Award Reconstruction of Pomona Avenue

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN:

78-2020 Chapter 159 Wilson Ave NJDOT

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

USDA Canada Goose Work for the Year 2021

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to get a proposal from the USDA to continue Canada Goose work for the year 2021.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Wessler

ABSTAIN:

Update on Route 610 Bridge – the bid was pushed back to December 15, 2020
Acknowledged

Councilmember Riegel suggested that due to work being done on Riverside Drive, the City should move the radar speed limit sign to Chestnut Neck Road.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reorganization Meeting/Regular Meeting 6:00 pm on January 5, 2020
Acknowledged

Cannabis (Attorney Ray Went)

Attorney Went explained that in November the voters overwhelmingly voted to legalize marijuana in the State of New Jersey. He knows that the City previously discussed whether they would like to enact legislation to prohibit such activity in the City. Fortunately, we did not make a final decision and we waited to see what would happen because any legislation passed on a municipal level is now null and void until the State takes their next steps. At this time, we do not know the timeframe of the State. We can expect the enabling legislation in the first quarter of 2021. During the second quarter we can expect a regulatory agency that will regulate the sale and use. Attorney Went will keep the City updated as everything progresses.

Gravel Pit (Councilman Kozlowski)

Councilmember Kozlowski updated Council on the previous discussion of the Gravel Pit at Council's last meeting. He spoke with Chuck Endicott and was advised that he is still working on a proposal to possibly fill the pit with dredging material. There was also a discussion to possibly dump the heavier debris that is at the Transfer Station there as well. This would include heavier roots, stumps and dirt that would potentially cost the City a lot of money to take to ACUA. The City Engineer was questioned for his thoughts on this as well and he advised that we could probably make one dump there. If we were to do it on a regular basis it would require us to obtain special permitting. Mayor Giberson is opposed to this idea.

The City Qualified for the LGEF Grant Award in the Amount of \$11,277.00

Councilmember Riegel asked what this money would be used for. Councilmember Kozlowski stated that the money goes into the General Fund.

Tentative Work Schedule for ACE

Councilmember Kozlowski explained that along with the schedule a map of the project was posted onto the City's Facebook page. Atlantic City Electric will continue to work daily on Wrangleboro Road (Dump Road) with a tentative completed date of December 9. Work will continue daily on Riverside Drive until the end of December. The City requested that Atlantic City Electric not work on Saturdays and they have agreed to do that. The State Police are there at all times. If there are any questions or problems, resident should contact City Hall.

Councilmember Riegel mentioned that the time period for the New Jersey State Historic Trust Grant will be coming up again. This would be to utilize the garage, or another location in town, as a historical and senior meeting place. The declaration of intent must be filed by March 15, 2021. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2021. Councilmember Riegel would like for the City to hire a grant writer. She will contact different entities for more information on a grant writer and bring a proposal to Council. The Port Republic Historical Committee was formed and includes Mayor Giberson, Councilmember Bugdon and Councilmember Riegel. All present members of Council agreed to this committee and its members.

Councilmember Bugdon asked Council how they would like to handle the Port Community Church holding their candlelight services at the pavilion at 7:30 pm on Christmas Eve. She is concerned with traffic and social distancing. Councilmember Riegel stated that the service will be heard over the radio and cars will be able to park along Park Avenue.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson proclaimed that while the City is under siege with the rest of the world with the coronavirus, there is light at the end of the tunnel. He thanks everyone for doing what needed to be done during this time and everyone for following the instructions of the medical professionals.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Pastor Frank Brown Pomona Ave. thanked Mayor and Council for their continued support of Port Community Church. Postcards will be mailed to every resident in approximately 10 days to invite them to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The service will be at 6:00 pm. For the foreseeable future, the Church will continue to hold service at the pavilion and will move to online when weather does not permit for outdoor services.

Robert Thompson commented that the Fire Company's concern with the work being done on Riverside Drive and Wrangleboro Drive is having access to fuel for the trucks because they are now utilizing the city yard. The other concern is that with the equipment on Riverside Drive, they are blocking more than one lane. It is hard enough to get a pickup truck through, let alone a fire truck. They would like an alternate path in the instance of a life or death situation arises. They would like to be able to reroute prior to leaving the station. Councilmember Kozlowski asked Clerk Campellone to touch base with them tomorrow.

Kathy Brady, Riverside Drive, stated that Atlantic City Electric was out working on Sunday this past weekend. She is asking that the City also request that they do not work on Sundays either. Mayor Giberson does not want to close the whole weekend off to them. They are already not working on Saturdays because that day the Transfer Station is open.

Barbara Lang, Main Street, asked which part of the process for the bridge project is being delayed. Councilmember Kozlowski explained that the County will be going out to bid on December 15th.

Joe Martin, Mill Street, explained that last week there was a power outage and what sounded like a large explosion. He is asking if this would be happening on a regular basis. Mr. Martin also requested that the radar speed sign located on Pomona Road be moved back to Mill Street. Mayor Giberson explained that the loud bang could have been a tree falling into the line and it is a natural occurrence. Councilmember Riegel stated that with the troopers working on Riverside Drive, she believes traffic should be slowing down. Councilmember Kozlowski stated that the members of Emergency Management will come up with a location based on everyone's concerns.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 12-2020 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC Municipal Clerk