

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. January 5, 2021
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL (ZOOM) MEETING

Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. On the motion of Council President Kozlowski, 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, Jacob Nass, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

MAYOR: Gary Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Ray Went, Esq.

Council President 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 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.

Council President Kozlowski thanked Kevin Wessler for his years of service to the City as a Councilman, as the Chair of the Department of Public Works and for serving his last two years as Council President to Council.

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 8, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2021 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Council President Kozlowski reported that there has been a very heavy State Police presence in town due to the construction for the placement of the new electric poles through town, There will be some obstruction, but they have worked out most of the glitches with the project. As for Emergency Management, he has been in contact with Galloway Emergency Management as well as the County. He is waiting to hear more news and details regarding distribution of the vaccination.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski reported that employee evaluations have been completed. He will be meeting with Public Works to go over their evaluations. In a report received from the Tax Collector, the City's 2020 tax collection rate was 98.47%. that is one of the highest rates the City has had.

Public Works:

Council President Kozlowski reported there has been progress. There are vacations for the employees scheduled this month. The employees had to work around the construction on the roadway to the transfer station. Kyle Ayers did a great job covering for James Milton while he was on vacation. He has proven to be a good hire. The Christmas tree was put up this year with the help of Hamilton Township.

Recreation:

No report

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that he spoke with Chief Yochim and the Fire Department feels the signs for the construction and road closures throughout town have not been very good. Otherwise, everything is running smooth. Clerk Campellone explained that she has been sending emails to Government Liaison Ken Mosca for days regarding the issues the City is having. Mr. Mosca responded to her that the State Police have the situation under control. Council President Kozlowski questioned if this is an issue with responding to fire calls. Councilmember Allgeyer responded that this is the concern of Chief Yochim.

Board of School Estimates:

No report

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the reorganization for the Planning Board is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2021.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

During the Month of December, a total of 5 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (3) New (0) Addition (0) Zoning Permits (1) CO Inspections (1)
Total of (5)

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Council President Kozlowski read the rules for speaking in the public portion of the meetings. City Council adopted Robert's Rules of Order during the reorganization meeting earlier this evening.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter dated 12/11/2020 from Attorney Keith Davis, Esq. regarding Salvatore Perillo no longer being a partner in the law firm

Attorney Ray Went explained that Attorney Sal Perillo, who represented the City for many years, is no longer with the law firm. Sal was always very positive in regard to the City of Port Republic and initiated the relationship Attorney Went now has with the City. He personally thanks Sal for that.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator – Mayor Giberson appointed Council President Stanley Kozlowski

City Council Liaison to the Planning Board (1-year appointment) – Mayor Giberson appointed Councilmember Donna Riegel

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Giberson looks forward to helping Port Republic School this year. The state of the City is in pretty good shape. We have plans to get a new truck for the Public Work's Department. Mayor is very proud of Council.

RESOLUTIONS:

40-2021 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

41-2021 Resolution Cancelling the 2020 Budget Appropriations with Unexpended Balances

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

42-2021 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Used Ford F-250 Pickup Truck Donated by the County of Atlantic

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Marijuana Legalization (*City Solicitor Ray Went*)

Attorney Went explained that formal legislature has been passed legalizing recreational distribution, manufacturing and sale of marijuana. The legislation went into effect on January 1, 2021 and provides that you have 180 days from January 1 to enact an ordinance, if you should choose, to ban such activity. This had been a topic of discussion previously, so he does have a proposed ordinance that he is working on if the City is still inclined to prohibit these activities within the bounds of the City. He spoke with Joe McGroarty, Planning Board Solicitor, to have the Planning Board look over a draft ordinance and give their approval. This ordinance would modify the Zoning Code to prohibit use within any district within the City. The ordinance would then be presented to City Council for discussion and a vote. Councilmember Giberson does not feel we should pursue this and go against what the voters of New Jersey voted on. The City will gain nothing going against this legislation. Councilmember Riegel stated that

we are not going against the use, but rather than the sale of marijuana within the community. Attorney Went agreed. He said you should look at this similarly to a liquor license, whether the City wants to allow this or not. Councilmember Giberson asked how this could affect the taxes that are made from this on a State level. Councilmember Riegel stated that the State has stated that the tax money will be going to at risk communities. This would not affect us. Councilmember Giberson stated that a majority of the money would go towards those communities, but not all of it. Council President Kozlowski suggested that a Marijuana Legalization Committee be formed and that they meet to do more research and discuss this further. The committee will consist of Mayor Giberson, Councilmember Kurtz and Councilmember Nass. The Chair of the committee will be Councilmember Kurtz.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal from Grant Writer James M. Rutala

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to authorize an agreement with James M. Rutala.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Purchase of New Truck / Lawn Mower

Council President Kozlowski explained that last year Council passed an Ordinance for up to \$90,000 to acquire a new dump truck/snowplow to replace what we have now. This project is being worked on currently. The prices that are coming in are about \$12,000 to \$13,000 cheaper since they are on State Contract. The City is also in need of a new lawn mower and we may be able to purchase one with the new prices coming in so much lower.

Budget Workshop Schedule (January 12th & January 26th tentative dates)
Announced by Council President Kozlowski

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson stated to be kind to one another. Stay safe and everyone get vaccinated as soon as you can.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 1-2021 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk