

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. APRIL 13, 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 B. 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.

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 9, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 19, 2021 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 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 Nass and carried.

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE:

Public Hearing / Adoption

ORDINANCE 01-2021 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

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

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

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

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 50-2021 Concurring Resolution of the Board of School Estimates
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

RESOLUTION 51-2021 Resolution Authorizing the Budget be Read by Title Only
On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried.

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

NO:

ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

BUDGET 2021

Public Hearing / Adoption

RESOLUTION 52-2021 Resolution Approving the Final Adoption of the 2021
Municipal Budget

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

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Trooper Arcos reported that the State Police responded to several calls during the
month of March including cyber harassment, wellbeing checks, verbal disputes, medical
disputes, and a patron dispute.

Council President Kozlowski reported that the City completed the Emergency
Operations Plan (EOP) Report and it has been approved by the State. This is good for
5-years. He thanked the City employees who assisted in this, specifically Vicki Cantell.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski announced that Deputy Clerk Brandy Blevin passed her
Registered Municipal Clerk Exam. For the month of March, the Clerk's Office report
shows that there were receipts in the amount of \$12,400.00. The CFO's Report for the
month of February shows a fund balance of approximately \$1.346 million dollars, with
revenues of \$570,000, including taxes collected. There were expenditures listed in the
amount of \$399,684.00. The ending balance was \$1,516,917.00. The Tax Collector's
report for the month of March shows a collection amount of \$49,977.00, including
approximately \$10,000 which was 2020 taxes.

Public Works:

Council President Kozlowski read the April 2021 Public Works Council Report. The
report stated the following:

- Tested two demo lawnmowers, decided on a 60" Kubota to replace 15-year-old Bobcat mower
- Cleaned swale from Mill Bridge Court to Nacote Creek (multiple times)
- Continuing to monitor dam levels – raising and lowering sluice gates as needed
- Spring cleanup around City Hall and other City properties
- DPW yard and garage cleanup
- Engineer Matt Doran received RFP's for the dam study & will award to Colliers Engineering & Design.

Recreation/Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that two baseball teams have applied for use of the ballfield and have they been approved. Two lifeguards and a beach badge attendant have been hired for the beach. Two applicants have submitted their applications for the Clean Team, she is looking to receive two more.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that he spoke with Chief Yochim and all the men have completed their first aid classes. The third Saturday in May (May 15, 2021) will be the bi-annual roast beef dinner. The dinner will be drive-thru only.

Board of School Estimates:

Council President Kozlowski stated that the school's superintendent reached out to request a meeting to start planning for next year.

Mayor Giberson reported that Jeff Ropieki resigned from the School Board and he would like to fill his position on the board with Eric Stevenson.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, April 12, 2021. Two variance applications were heard and granted with conditions. There will be a discussion on their May agenda of how the marijuana legislation will affect planning and zoning if the City chooses not to opt out.

Construction Department / Code Enforcement:

During the Month of March, a total of 8 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (2) Demos (1) New (0) Addition (0) Zoning Permits (1) CO Inspections for Resale (0) Total of (4)

Code Enforcement Issue: 270 Chestnut Neck Road for the illegal operation of an agricultural farm. The issue is ongoing, and Kevin Cain will update Council.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that equipment has been returned not clean and sanitized. She would like to request that equipment be returned in the same condition it is sent out in.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

Councilmember Kurtz reported that the State is still figuring out what they are doing so it is hard to know how this could potentially affect Port Republic at this time.

Attorney Went drafted an ordinance which globally bans any type of legalized marijuana activity. He understands that if we do not ban some or all of the legalized marijuana activity, then for a period of 5 years you are stuck with any and all of it. Conversely, if we adopt an ordinance that bans any and all activity in advance of the August 21st deadline, we will not be prohibited in revisiting it and allowing what we see fit for the City, even within the 5 year window.

Councilmember Riegel expressed her agreement in opting out at this time to allow us the freedom in opting back in if we choose to. Councilmember Giberson stated that we need to confirm this, and his biggest concern is that we do not opt out of any kind of money that will be going to or coming from the State. Councilmember Riegel responded that there are three ways in which municipalities can receive funds from legalized marijuana and the first two do not apply to Port Republic. The method which would apply to Port Republic would be 2% tax which could be charged to the businesses and collected by the municipality.

Council President Kozlowski feels this is an involved proposal and that Council should hold a Special Meeting before our May meeting to review in more detail.

Historical:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she received a package from the State Historian regarding the bridge. She delivered the package to City Hall and it is available if anyone would like to view the information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Port Republic Animal Control 1st Quarter Report 2021

There were 8 animal calls, 12 patrols were conducted, a cat was captured, a racoon was captured, and 5 investigations were conducted.

Email from Zina Spezakakis Regarding the Fair Ballot Project
Acknowledged

Email from Ken Dolsky of New Jersey Forest Watch Regarding the impact of New Forest Management Bills on Port Republic City
Acknowledged

Email from Lisa Hagen from the Margate City Municipal Clerk's Office Regarding Margate City's Resolution #74-2021, Opposing the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Proposed Regulation Titled "Protecting Against Climate Threats" (PACT)
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

53-2021 Appointment of Municipal Prosecutor, Carl Tripician
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

02-2021 Capital Ordinance Providing for the Purchase of New Public Works
Equipment (Amount \$16,573.50)

2nd Reading / Adoption

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

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Atlantic City Electric Pole Project is 99% complete. The wooden pole removal will follow from Verizon and Comcast.

Dam Proposals to Evaluate Existing Dam

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson announced his retirement to become effective April 14, 2021.

Councilmember Bugdon shared the story about her first-time meeting Mayor Giberson and how he welcomed her to Council. She thanked Mayor Giberson for his service to the community and for guiding her over the many years.

Councilmember Giberson thanked Mayor Giberson for all his years served and for his guidance. Mayor Giberson, from the small City of Port Republic, was once the President of the NJ Conference of Mayors. He also was awarded Mayor of the Year. Councilmember Giberson expressed how lucky the City was to have a mayor like Mayor Giberson. He has brought not only funding to the City but has shone a light on the City of Port Republic at a National political level. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for all

that he has done. Councilmember Giberson would love to see Mayor Giberson honored with a plaque dedicating City Hall to him. Council agrees.

Councilmember Allgeyer stated that he remembers campaigning for Mayor Giberson 36 years ago. He knew then he would do a good job. His heart has always been with Port Republic.

Councilmember Riegel shared her memories of Mayor Giberson asking her to be a member of the Planning Board. She was nervous to join but Mayor Giberson knew she loved history and the City of Port Republic. So, she joined and was very happy. She is very sorry that Mayor Giberson is retiring and she wishes him the best. Mayor Giberson thanked Councilmember Riegel for all her help and being a great tie between the Planning Board and City Council.

Councilmember Kurtz shared that Mayor Giberson became Mayor when Councilmember Kurtz was just 6 years old. It wasn't until high school that he realized that other towns had different mayors, he thought every town had the same mayor forever. Councilmember Kurtz thanked Mayor Giberson and said that he feels Port Republic has gotten better every year he has lived here. He knows Mayor Giberson and his wife are a big part of the reason. He is proud to call Port Republic his home. He thanked Mayor Giberson for his service and the team he and his wife are for this community.

Councilmember Nass shared his memory of attending a City Council Meeting many years ago at the old City Hall. He knew then that Mayor Giberson was a strong mayor and serious about the business of Port Republic. He thanked Mayor Giberson for being an inspiration to keep this great city great.

Council President Kozlowski shared his meeting with Mayor Giberson when he wanted to put horses on his property and Mayor Giberson was in full support and helped them with the process. He and his family have loved living here ever since. He shared that the Mayor symbolizes two things to him, 1 – is his love of this town and 2 – is how willing everyone is to pitch in to get things done. The Mayor symbolizes the spirit of our fire department, our school, and the town itself. He appreciates his time having worked with the Mayor. He learned a lot in a short amount of time.

Councilmember Bugdon added that without Mayor Giberson, Port Republic would not still be Port Republic. She extends a debt of gratitude for his love of the community, the history and always doing what is best for Port Republic. She hopes the next mayor will do the same as Mayor Giberson has done. Mayor Giberson thanked Councilmember Bugdon. He stated that they always worked well together. He additionally thanked her in taking over Senior Services and the service she provides the town.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, thanked Mayor Giberson for his years of service to the community and for all his help with the many park projects over the years. Mayor Giberson thanked Bill for being such a great help with the City's parks and recreational services. Bill Smallwood added that the Jersey Genesis Triathlon is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 22, 2021. The boat ramp will be closed the day before the event and the transfer station will not open until noon on the day of the race.

Attorney Went thanked Mayor Giberson on behalf of himself and his law firm. They have worked together for as long as the firm has been working for the City. He appreciates his leadership and his follow through. Mayor Giberson thanked Attorney Went and his law firm.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 4-2021 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. Succession / Form of Government
2. Governing Body Ethics
3. OPRA Request of Property Cards
4. Dredging Lease (Block 24, Lot 34)

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Allgeyer moved, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to enter into executive session.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Riegel moved, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to close executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk