

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. MAY 11, 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, Stanley Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz, Jacob Nass, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Giberson

ACTING MAYOR: Stanley Kozlowski

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 TABLE APRIL 13, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 13, 2021 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES, AND APRIL 27, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 2021 BILL LIST

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Council President Kozlowski read the report received from Station Commander Charlee-Jo Steet for the month of April. The report reads as follows:

Throughout the month of April, Tuckerton Troopers responded to, and handled the following calls:

Medical Assists, Found Property, Civil Dispute, 911 Hang Ups, Animal complaint, ATV complaint, Noise complaint, Suspicious person, Theft, Well Being Check, numerous property checks, and:

(2) Driving While Intoxicated

(1) Motor Vehicle Accident

(49) Motor Vehicle Stops

(2) Motorists Aids

Additionally, Tuckerton Station will be providing (3) Troopers to assist with the Triathlon slated for Saturday May 22nd.

Should anything arise during the meeting that the station should be apprised of, please reach out.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski reported that we have hired a temporary seasonal employee to assist in the Public Works Department.

The Tax Collector's April 2021 Report shows a collection of \$160,422.55. The Clerk's April 2021 shows a collection of \$6,669.16.

Public Works:

Council President Kozlowski reported that the Public Works Department is getting ready for the opening of the beach and the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon. The new employee will be starting on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Council President Kozlowski thanked Kyle Ayers, Public Works Laborer, for handling the workload by himself thus far. He is doing well and we will be in good shape to get through the Summer.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that there have been two lifeguards and a beach badge attendant hired for the beach. We are ready for the opening of the beach on May 29th. The sale of beach badges began on May 3rd.

On Monday, May 10th, twenty-one students and four staff members from Pilgrim Academy came to City Hall as part of their community service program. They weeded around City Hall, the Veterans Memorial area, around the gazebo and trees, and the entrance of the pavilion. They did a wonderful job and their efforts helped to beautify our park area. Councilmember Bugdon will be sending them a thank you letter.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the roast beef dinner will be on May 15, 2021. The dinner will be drive-thru only.

Board of School Estimates:

Council President Kozlowski reported that he spoke with Councilmember Allgeyer and they are beginning discussions to continue to support the school. The school and the Board of School Estimates are working together, and they will keep Council informed of any developments.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, May 10, 2021. Two resolutions were approved, both from the month before. One was for Allen for a variance and one was for Zarillo.

Attorney McGroarty researched and explained the new legislation regarding the approval of cannabis for New Jersey. It was the same information that Attorney Went previously shared with Council. The Planning Board is now aware of the legislation. They are also aware of the first reading of Ordinance 03-2021 tonight and there was no opposition.

Construction Department / Code Enforcement:

During the Month of April , a total of 4 inspections were done by the Construction Office: Alterations (1) Demos (0) New (0) Additions (0) Zoning Permits (0) CO Inspections for Resale (2) Total of (3)

Code Enforcement Issues: 271 Chestnut Neck Road (debris) and 148 Central Avenue (debris and farm animals).

Kevin Cain went to Court on May 5, 2021 for a bamboo issue at 55 Mill Street.

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has hired four youth from the community to start on June 22, 2021. They will also be working with Bill Smallwood for the Jersey Genesis Triathlon on May 22, 2021.

For Senior Services, an electric hospital bed and walker will be returned shortly. Other supplies have been donated. Councilmember Bugdon thanked the community for the wonderful items that have been donated.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

Councilmember Kurtz stated that he appreciates that Council held a special meeting to discuss the legalization of marijuana process so that the community could participate and ask questions. He likes the direction that the City is taking.

Council President Kozlowski explained that there will be the first reading of Ordinance 03-2021 tonight and additionally we are working on an ordinance which will prohibit smoking of marijuana in public throughout town.

Historical:

Council President Kozlowski reported that we have been able to set aside some funds for the Historical Committee. Councilmember Riegel expressed she is happy that this is moving in the right direction.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, asked if two more solar speed signs were purchased this year. Council President Kozlowski responded that the City did purchase two new solar speed signs and we are working with the State Police on this issue. Mr. Martin also questioned if the 49 motor vehicle stops mentioned in the State Police's report was in town or on the Parkway. Council President Kozlowski stated he was wondering the same thing and he will discuss that with Lt. Steet. He plans on meeting with the State Police to discuss that concern and others. Lastly, Mr. Martin stated that there used to be a 25 miles per hour speed limit sign in front of his property which had fallen and has not been replaced. He was told by Public Works employees that a pole was needed to set it up again. Council President Kozlowski stated they would look into the sign being replaced and the placement of said sign.

Paul Smisek, 111 Moss Mill Road, had questions regarding the gravel pit. He asked what type of chemical was going to be used to neutralize the smell of the dredge material. Councilmember Riegel responded that it would be lime. Mr. Smisek also asked if the City would be willing to allow residents to bring clean dirt to the site as well or if there is another place they could take it since it is not accepted at the City Transfer Station. Council President Kozlowski stated he would have to investigate this further.

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, asked Council if they had any questions about the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon on Saturday, May 22nd. Council President Kozlowski responded that Council does not have any questions. Mr. Smallwood advised Council that this year's numbers are around 300 so we will most likely be slightly above that come the day of the race.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from James Ferguson, dated March 25, 2021 – Countywide Municipal Court System Presentation to Council

Council President Kozlowski reminded Council that a few months ago they had voted against doing a resolution to explore the possibility of a Countywide Court System. Since then a new person is heading that effort and new information has come out. Mr. Ferguson has sent a letter requesting to make a presentation to Council. There is a commitment deadline of the end of June and Council President Kozlowski does not believe we could meet that. However, we can opt in at any time if we choose to do so later. We also have the option of getting involved with other cities. Councilmember Bugdon would like to hear the presentation to see if this is an opportunity to save the City money. Council agrees and has no objection to having Mr. Ferguson come to the June Council Meeting to make a presentation.

Letter from Doran Engineering, PA, dated May 4, 2021 – Payment Application #1 from Arawak Paving Company (Repaving of Pomona Avenue)

Councilmember Allgeyer questioned if Arawak Paving Company would be restoring the area where they were parking their trucks during the paving project. Council President Kozlowski responded that he would ask Martin Barrett from Arawak Paving Company.

RESOLUTIONS:

56-2021 Change Order No. 1 – Reconstruction of Pomona Avenue (*contract changed from \$192,200.00 to \$185,211.14 – decreased by \$7,688.86*)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

03-2021 An Ordinance Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses Within Its Geographical Boundaries and Amending Section 160-6 of the Code of the City of Port Republic

1ST Reading / Introduction

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Dredging

Council President Kozlowski stated that this project is still in its infantile stage. They are still waiting for a draft of what the contract may look like. We have had at least three extensive meetings by City Councilmembers and the Engineer regarding details that need to be addressed. Some details are still forthcoming at this point. It will have to go out for a bid process. This is a very environmentally sound area in town and Council is being mindful to not affect the neighborhood daily and not to damage the property in any way. They will keep the public up to date as this possible project continues.

NEW BUSINESS:

NJDOT Fiscal Year 2022 State Aid Programs – grant application deadline July 1, 2021 Council President Kozlowski explained that the deadline to choose a paving project for the 2022 fiscal year will be on July 1, 2021. The Public Works Committee will be meeting with Engineer Doran to discuss the next road that will be paved in Port Republic in 2022.

We are also looking into other grant opportunities which are in the preliminary stages. Council President Kozlowski thanked Clerk Campellone for her effort in reaching out to Jim Rutala to start working on grant opportunities for the City. Councilmember Riegel asked if they were looking for grant funds to dredge Nacote Creek. Clerk Campellone responded that this is being worked on and we are awaiting information from FEMA at this point.

Emergency Management Coordinator

Council President Kozlowski explained that with the retirement of Mayor Giberson, he also retired as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator. Council President Kozlowski is the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. In speaking with the Emergency Management Coordinator of Galloway Township, Mike Brandenberger, an opportunity arose to speak with a resident of Port Republic who is also a member of the Port Republic Fire Department and a Sergeant of Police in Galloway Township to discuss his interest in becoming the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City. This could be proposed as early as next month. Councilmember Riegel asked if this is an appointed position or if it would need to be advertised to the public to receive applications. Council President Kozlowski explained that this position is an appointed position, appointed by the Mayor.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk