

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL 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 Kurtz and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Stanley Kozlowski, Thomas Kurtz, Jacob Nass, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Doris Bugdon, 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 APPROVE AUGUST 10, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 24, 2021 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 2021 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Acting Mayor Kozlowski introduced Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Winneberger to Council. Emergency Management Coordinator Winneberger explained that the Office of Emergency Management holds a lot of responsibility when it comes to emergencies that could occur within our City. If we were to be hit with a severe natural disaster, the Office of Emergency Management would be called upon to make decisions regarding public safety. Emergency Management Coordinator Winneberger shared his background and qualifications to make such decisions if they were to happen. He has been a fireman for 24 years. He started with Galloway Township and is currently with Port Republic. He was also an EMT and is a certified 911 dispatcher. He has been a police officer since 2001 with the Galloway Township Police Department and is currently a Sergeant First Class. He has also been with the K-9 unit for the past 16 years. He also has about 40 credits in classes for Emergency Management and will be taking his exams.

Emergency Management Coordinator Winneberger explained that the big goal for Emergency Management is to be able to respond to an emergency, and also to be prepared for that emergency. He would like to make sure that our City is best prepared as we can be in case there is an emergency. In the near future he would like to figure out which resources we have here available and where we would need to get our resources that we do not have. We are a small town with limited resources, so we are going to depend on outside resources. The County and State have systems which aid in obtaining resources which may be needed in an emergency. There are also money and grants available that he would like to look into for the City.

Council thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Winneberger and stated they look forward to working with him.

Acting Mayor Kozlowski added that there have been calls to City Hall regarding the speeding issue in various areas of town (Mill Street, Chestnut Neck Road, Riverside Drive, etc.) These complaints have been relayed to the State Police. If there is something that happens, the advice is to call the State Police directly. We do have our solar speed signs in town which seem to be responded to well by both the residents and

the drivers. The speed signs will be used as a response mechanism to where we speeding occurring.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski reported that the Tax Collector has collected \$187,688.48 in the month of August. The Clerk's Office collected a total of \$8,557.13 during the month of August. The CFO also included a Current Fund Summary for Council. We are currently going through our budget now, and we have about 34-35% of our budget left for the year. All departments have been spending appropriately.

Public Works:

Council President Kozlowski reported that the Public Works Committee met earlier this evening. They have decided they may adjust the hours for the Transfer Station on Wednesdays. We now have two of our Public Works Employees out on medical. There is a temporary employee, Chris, who will be working the Transfer Station.

Recreation:

No report

Fire and Ambulance:

Chief Yochim reported that they ordered new gear for the firemen. They started with 6 sets and still need to get 12 more sets. Hopefully within the next two-years they will get caught up on that. they will be holding their Roast Beef Dinner on October 16th. It will be a drive-thru again. They had a great dinner in the Spring and are hoping for the same response in the Fall.

Board of School Estimates:

Council President Kozlowski stated there is nothing new to report. They are looking forward to meeting with Todd D'Anna and Brian London to start reviewing the 2022-2023 budget. The school is working on obtaining a LEAP Grant. This grant would aid in hiring consultants to look for ways to help the school to help fund itself, including outside resources.

Planning Board:

No report

Construction Department / Code Enforcement:

No report

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

No report

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

No report

Historical:

Councilmember Riegel reported that we received a proposal from Endicott Engineering for professional services regarding the old firehouse property. The proposal we received has a 45-day period where the City needs to decide if we wish to move forward or not. Councilmember Riegel stated that her other committee member, Councilmember Bugdon, conveyed that she is 100% in agreement to proceed with this proposal.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Kathy Cox, 123 Moss Mill Road, questioned what the new hours for the Transfer Station will be changed to for Wednesdays. Council President Kozlowksi responded that at this time we are thinking of changing them from 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm to 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Craig Sabath, 473 Chestnut Neck Road, shared that the speeding on Chestnut Neck Road is out of control. He cannot go to his mailbox without worrying he will be hit by a car. It is dangerous. Acting Mayor Kozlowski responded that this really is one of his top priorities. He calls the State Police almost weekly. This too is another reason he is excited to have Scott Winneberger on board. They have some ideas to try to help tracking the speeding and giving that data to the State Police. He added that the State Police are on a response basis with town. They will patrol and they can, but it is not always easy for them. With next year's budget, we may look into setting some money aside for overtime for specific patrolling. Mr. Sabath added that whatever he would need to do as a homeowner to help, he would do so. Emergency Management Coordinator Winneberger added that they have spoken with the Station Commander of the State Police and will continue to do so. Mr. Sabath added that he understands how the State Police works and for a non-emergency type call it can take them about 45 minutes to arrive. Emergency Management Coordinator responded that they would continue to reach out to them. If they do not know there are complaints, they cannot respond. We will continue to work with them with this issue.

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, stated that his son has 3 children who get on the school bus at Sooy's Landing and Clarks Landing Roads. The speeding is horrific. He has almost been hit by cars while trying to get his mail on Mill Street. Additionally, Mr. Martin had two incidents where he needed to call the State Police, one being a 911 call. The ambulance arrived quickly but the State Police did not arrive until about 30 minutes after the ambulance had left. He has made calls about incidents occurring on the beach and seen them show up 45 minutes later. He realizes that it is not an emergency, but it's 45 minutes later. He has seen Galloway Officers go by his house and is wondering if the City ever spoke with Galloway about policing our neighborhood. Acting Mayor Kozlowski responded that we do have a great relationship with the State Police and even have a substation here at our City Hall. The purpose of the substation is that they will help provide coverage by coming to use the substation. And in exchange of that, the town would help reduce taxes and costs in town for police coverage. But this is one

of our concerns. Our next step is to meet with the Station Commander of the State Police to discuss what we can do to help in providing them information and data to have them respond better. If they cannot help in patrolling the area, the next step will be to look at next year's budget to see what we can do. We currently set aside \$3,000 a year for police. We could have them do overtime details to control speeding. But we are working on obtaining data to get to the State Police to allow them the opportunity to react to it. Councilmember Riegel added that she believes we did look into Galloway Township providing police coverage for the town before and they wanted a lot of money to do so. Acting Mayor Kozlowski stated that we want people to know that you do not speed in Port Republic, and we are a long way from there. We really are working on it.

Mike Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, spoke about a CPR training for the kids or residents on town. Council President Kozlowski suggested he contact the School's Superintendent Brian London to set that up. Council added that this would be a great opportunity.

Al Kinkade, 38 Old New York Road, stated that in addition to the speeding situation in town there are young people out driving golf carts on the roadways. They are following the rules of the road and it is a fragile vehicle for them to be in especially with the speeding problem. Council President Kozlowski responded that he knows some towns have ordinances on golf carts, and we should probably look into that. Councilmember Nass stated that there is no ordinance that we could pass that would surpass state law.

Al Kinkade also stated that he does not think the port-a-potty by the baseball field is in the best location. He feels the City should move it as the area it is in is a low area. He thinks it would be better to have it further up by the tennis courts. Council President Kozlowski responded that we will look into it.

Niki Giberson, 300 Sooy's Landing Road, thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Winneberger and shared how happy she is that he is here. She responded to My. Trupkiewicz's comment about the CPR Program which they will be running after school once things calm down a little bit. She was looking for someone to teach first aid and CPR so that could additionally be a part of the afterschool program. She asked him to see her before leaving to exchange information.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank You Letter from Niki and Mayor Gary Giberson
Acknowledged

Thank You Letter from Jimmy and Nancy Milton
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

69-2021 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

70-2021 Reconstruction of Pomona Avenue – Change Order No. 2 / Final

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

71-2021 Authorizing Requested Extended Leave of Absence Without Pay to James Milton

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Kurtz, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

72-2021 Resolution Confirming Land Sale of Block 37, Lot 6 {aka 327 Riverside Drive}

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN: Kurtz

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Draft Dam Update

Council President Kozlowski stated that he received the draft report from Colliers Engineering regarding the dam. It is an extensive review of the condition of the dam and sluice gates on Mill Road. We have many proposals, some of which include continued use of mechanisms, to spill ways that would be permanent and would not require any human involvement. Of course, the prices range greatly. We will be meeting with both the City Engineer and City Grant Writer to discuss what our best option will be. We will also be meeting with Congressman VanDrew to hopefully get his support in this project for the City.

Land Sale of Shell Landing Road – no bids received

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Kurtz shared that the Green Acres areas are open to the public and it has been awesome seeing the increasing use, but they are closed for hunting season and are only open to registered hunters. Many people do not realize this and continue to use the trails during this time. There were several close calls last year. He would like to have temporary signage during the hunting season that stands out to people. The areas should be closed to anyone, other than hunters, between November 1 – December 31 (excluding Sundays). Resident Bob Haviland added that he walks many of our trails and there are several trails that do not have Green Acres signs to identify them. The only two areas with proper signage are on Riverside Drive and back on Indian Cabin Road. Clerk Campellone will work on obtaining more signs. Councilmember Kurtz added he will help if needed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Niki Giberson, 300 Sooy's Landing Road, thanked Acting Mayor Kozlowski for sending out the robocall looking for volunteers for the lunch program at Port School. They were able to get new volunteers who previously were not involved in the school. They now have about 10 volunteers.

Acting Mayor Kozlowski added that he really wants to ensure the residents that he is working on the speeding issue in town. It is very high on the priority list and he thanks everyone for their concern.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 9-2021 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. Liquor Licensing
2. Gravel Mine Location

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Nass moved, seconded of Councilmember Kurtz and carried to enter into executive session.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Allgeyer moved, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried to close executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk