

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. OCTOBER 12, 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 Bugdon and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Stanley Kozlowski, Jacob Nass, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Kurtz

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 SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Bugdon

MOTION TO TABLE SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 EXECUTIVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 2021 BILL LIST

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried, with the exception of Purchase Order #21-00487.

Councilmember Bugdon requested a breakdown of the fees being charged by (Galloway Twp.) G.T.C.S.E.F. prior to payment being made.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried, with the exception of Purchase Order #21-00487.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Winneberger reported:

- On September 22nd and September 23rd, he attended the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association Conference in Atlantic City. At this conference he was able to complete the basic workshop required to be completed within the first year of his appointment. He was able to attend a training and debriefing regarding Hurricane Ida.
- On September 27th he met with Lt. Steet from the New Jersey State Police to introduce himself and to discuss the appropriate way for the City to request resources from them. Lt. Steet was able to advise him on what their capabilities are.
- On the morning of October 12th, he met with the Galloway Ambulance Squad. Chief Uhl of the Ambulance Squad was able to provide him with a statistical report of what the Ambulance Squad responded to in Port Republic for 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- He has been notified by Mayor Kozlowski of the numerous speeding complaints on Mill Street. He was able to get permission from Galloway Township to conduct a speed study on Mill Street, between Pomona Avenue and Clarks Landing Road. A small box was placed on a pole which records traffic in both directions. The study was conducted between Tuesday, September 14th through Monday, September 20th. A 17-page report was generated and given to Acting Mayor Kozlowski. During the study, they captured 6,565 vehicles. The speed limit on Mill Street is 35 miles per hour and the average speed approaching the dam was 37 mph, with 85% of the vehicles traveling 43 mph or less. The average speed receding (going towards Clarks Landing Road) was 34 mph, with 85% of the vehicles traveling 41 mph or slower. There was one high speed captured at 77 mph at 1:00 am.

Acting Mayor Kozlowski added:

- He will be meeting with Lt. Steet tomorrow, October 13th at 10:00 am. They will continue discussions to improve the speeding conditions within town.

- The solar speed signs throughout town help moderate traffic. We have one more coming in to replace the one that was damaged on Riverside Drive. This one will most likely be rotated to where we feel hot spots are.
- The State Police have been in town. Especially in the area of the school in the mornings and afternoons.

Councilmember Giberson added:

- He would like for the City to purchase more solar speed sign units.

Councilmember Nass added:

- He would like to coordinate where the spy unit is with what we know in town to help us get a snapshot of what the need in town may be for the solar speed signs.
- He questioned what happened with the discussion of speed bumps. Councilmember Allgeyer responded that they are more of a liability. Councilmember Giberson responded that we may be able to look into this for in front of the school. Council President Kozlowski stated that we can bring this back up, but it is a process.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski reported:

- Tax Collector has collected \$679,372.52 in the month of September
- The Clerk's Office collected a total of \$6,067.83 during the month of September
- The CFO also included a Current Fund Summary for August 2021

Public Works:

Council President Kozlowski reported:

- Public Works Employee Kyle Ayers continues to be out due to an injury. He has been replaced by Chris Johnson.
- Public Works installed solar speed signs on Riverside Drive and Mill Street.
- A safety fence was installed around the dam.
- Public Works along with an employee of Bill Montag fixed a sink hole located in the parking lot of Fireman's Pond.
- The dam gauge placed by resident Joe Martin has proven to be helpful.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported:

- For our Annual Tree Lighting Event, she does not know if we will still be able to have home baked cookies or if they should be packaged. Councilmember Giberson stated that cookies can be placed in ziplocked bags. Council agreed.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported:

- The semi-annual roast beef dinner will be on Saturday, October 16th. It will be drive-thru only.

Board of School Estimates:

No report

Planning Board:

No report

Construction Department / Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the months of August and September 2021. During the month of August, a total of 11 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 6 Alterations
- 1 Additions
- 1 Zoning Permit
- 1 CO Inspection

Code Enforcement issues at 214 Riverside Drive and 39 Pomona Avenue are ongoing.

During the month of September, a total of 17 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 3 Alterations
- 1 New
- 1 Addition
- 2 Zoning Permits
- 1 CO Inspection

There are no new Code Enforcement issues. The matter at 200 Riverside Drive has been abated and the matter at 39 Pomona Avenue is complying, but not fully completed.

Senior Services/Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported:

- Councilmember Nass helped her go to the home of a resident that donated aids.
- Many requests have been made and everything is running smoothly.
- The Clean Team kids have ended for the summer. She gave them a pizza party.
- There is still money and clean ups will be needed in the Fall and Spring. If the Scouts want to do this, it will help with their Eagle Scout projects.
Councilmember Nass responded that they would love to help and just to let him know what is needed.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

No report

Historical:

Council President Kozlowski reported:

- Councilmember Riegel initiated a process to have the old Fire House renovated with the goal of it becoming the historical museum for the City. We have received one bid for a preliminary evaluation of the building from an engineer. They have met as a committee and decided to get two more bids. They are hopeful to have the bids to present to Council in November.

Councilmember Riegel reported:

- There is a meeting scheduled for November 17th at 6:00 pm at City Hall for anyone interested in preserving the history of Port Republic and perhaps starting a Port Republic Heritage Society.

Liquor Licensing:

Council President Kozlowski reported:

- Some progress has been made, but a committee meeting is needed.
- Preliminarily, our City is entitled to one restaurant type license and one liquor store type license.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

On the motion of Councilmember Nass, seconded by Councilmember Giberson and carried.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Port Republic Animal Control 3rd Quarter Report 2021

- 24 animal calls received during this period
- 12 animal control panels were conducted
- 8 cats were captured and taken to the animal shelter
- 2 racoons were also
- 16 investigations were also conducted

RESOLUTIONS:

73-2021 Authorizing Requested Leave of Absence Without Pay to Kyle Ayers
On the motion of Councilmember Nass, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

74-2021 Appointment of Supervisor in the Department of Public Works (*David Eisenhard – completed 3-month probationary period*)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

Councilmember Bugdon commented that Dave Eisenhard is a hardworking employee, and she has never seen him not working. He is a great worker and employee.

75-2021 Resolution Authorizing Release of Security Deposit and Performance Guarantee for the Gravel Mining Project (Block 24, Lot 34)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

76-2021 Resolution Joining the Establishment of the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County

Attorney Went explained that the statute has been interpreted by the higher up judges to mean that all State Police matters will now go before the County Court System. All of the City's State Police tickets will go to Mays Landing. The city has no choice in that. We have the choice to keep our court, but we have less than maybe 5 tickets a year at that point. Those would be our Code Enforcement tickets. We wouldn't want to pay a Judge's and a Court Administrator's salary to deal with so few Code Enforcement tickets a year. Councilmember Riegel asked if those few tickets could be sent to another municipality. Attorney Went responded that many municipal courts within the county are joining the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County. But, in terms of transferring them to another municipality, we could do that. Councilmember Giberson asked when the agreement would take effect. Attorney Went responded that they are scheduled to start on January 1, 2022. Councilmember Riegel is worried that there is no fee schedule and that by signing the agreement we will be locked in for 10 years. They will bill us every month and we have no idea what the costs will be. Attorney Went responded that we will not know, but if that happens other towns similar to Port Republic will be upset as well. And although we are locked in for 10 years, we do have the option of filing a grievance. Council President Kozlowski added that there is a commitment period of 2 years and we can withdraw after that. Councilmember Giberson asked who we would be losing as employees. Clerk Campellone responded our Court Administrator, the Judge, the prosecutor, and our violations clerk. Councilmember Giberson stated he is interested to see how this goes. The City has tried several times to see what the cost would be for us to go to another municipality, and we could never make it work for less than we were paying. He added he does not have a good feeling about this. Council President Kozlowski stated that the last time we looked at our

numbers, it cost the City about \$30,000 to run the court and we were bringing in about \$20,000 in revenue. The County last estimated we would save \$7,000 in costs yearly. On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski

NO: Riegel, Nass

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

77-2021 Appointment of Temporary Laborer in the Department of Public Works
(Christopher Johnson)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION / 1ST READING:

05-2021 An Ordinance Establishing Administrative Fees for Documents Related to
Vital Statistics

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

USDA – Geese Control

- We do not yet have a proposal on cost for 2022, we will discuss once we know the price.
- Councilmember Bugdon commented that this has been very successful in past years and she hopes we do it again in 2022.

Dam (update)

- Council President Kozlowski stated that they had a meeting at the dam today, October 12th, with Haddon which is Congressman Jeff VanDrew's aid.
- While Congressman VanDrew was unable to attend today's meeting, he did call to apologize and express support for our project. They do feel we have a project here to remediate the dam.
- Also in attendance of today's meeting was Jim Rutala, our Grant Writer, and Matt Doran Jr. from our Engineer's Office.
- We will now be moving onto step 2 of this project, which is to have an Engineer's review.

- Congressman VanDrew's Office will be writing a letter to the State encouraging them to help fund the second phase of this project.
- The original consultants for this project originally gave us four options: the first two involve getting a piece of machinery to automate the sluice gates using a rain moderator, the second two options are to update the dam to a fixed spillway type setup.
- Councilmember Giberson and Councilmember Bugdon both agreed we should go with a spillway.

Drainage Beach (update)

- We have passed the first stage of initial engineering drawings and this has been passed onto the City's Grant Writer, Jim Rutala, to help find funding.
- The project estimate is about \$210,000-\$215,000 project.

Dredging (update)

- The final version of the contract has been reviewed by Attorney Went and Engineer Doran.
- We are waiting on a final bid proposal so the project can be put out to bid.
- Councilmember Giberson asked if the City has notified the residents along the project location of our intention with the property. This was what we did in the past with the gravel mine project. He feels this should be done again. Council President Kozlowski responded that we did have a special meeting. Attorney Went stated that he thinks the sequence of events should be: 1) the proposed RFP is completed by Engineer Doran 2) we then notify the neighboring property owners and have a special meeting 3) then put the project out to bid.
- Councilmember Giberson asked Council if anyone has looked into the person or contractor who brought this project concept to them. Council responded that they have not. Councilmember Giberson stated that he thinks they should. Councilmember Riegel responded that this is why we are going out to bid.
- Councilmember Giberson added that he guarantees that the first load will be coming from the cleaning of the downfall pipes from Atlantic City and Ventnor.
- Councilmember Giberson stated that the pit that is there is 2 feet above seasonal high ground water. So, we are basically taking these dredge spoils and putting them into the water. They are not being put onto flat land.
- Councilmember Giberson added that the contractor's second plan is to put a marijuana dispensary at that location, that is what he does for a living. Councilmember Riegel responded that cannot just happen and that is not what the bid is for.
- Council President Kozlowski stated that while he does not know this contractor, the point of the bid is to get more than this one contractor to bid on the project.
- The concept was brought to Council to fill the pit or to sell it as is. Council agreed to move forward with the RFP for filling the pit.
- Councilmember Allgeyer stated that this RFP will not be in concrete. We will see what will happen and if any other interest in the property is brought to us. So far, this is the only concept to come to us.

- Councilmember Nass stated that he has spoken to AtlantiCare and Stockton about other options such as student housing and a state-of-the-art green nursing location. Councilmember Allgeyer responded that these are the kinds of projects that should be brought to Council.
- Council President Kozlowski stated that if Council is not comfortable with moving forward, now is the time to do another option.

On the motion of Council President Kozlowski, seconded by Councilmember Nass to table the dredging spoil project until other developers can look at the project site.

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Nass

NO: Allgeyer, Riegel

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

- While the matter is being tabled, the RFP will still be completed, and we will approach developers for more information.

Liquor License (update)

- Progress is being made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halloween Hours 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Control Burn (sent application)

- Two locations have been applied for: Pitney Road, behind Riverside Drive

Green Acres (signage)

- Clerk Campellone stated that she drove around town to look. We do have signage at Riverside Drive and at Clarks Mill Pond stating that during Hunting Season (November 1 – December 31) no hiking is permitted, except for on Sundays. We will request Public Works clean those signs. We will also make posts on the City's Facebook page and the Port Republic Trails Group on Facebook.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Niki Giberson, 300 Sooy's Landing Road, asked when the Open House for the Type I to Type II school district is scheduled. Council President Kozlowski responded that the meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

Mike Trupkiewics, 58 Pomona Avenue, asked what the Halloween hours refers to. Councilmember Riegel responded that 6 pm – 8 pm are the hours of trick-or-treating.

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 10-2021 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. School Board Referendum

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Giberson, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk