

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 8, 2022
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 Giberson 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

MAYOR: Monica 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 JANUARY 4, 2022, REORGANIZATION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Giberson, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Allgeyer, Bugdon

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 4, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Giberson, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Allgeyer, Bugdon

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 31, 2022, BUDGET WORKSHOP & SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 2022 BILL LIST

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

No report

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski reported that the first Budget Workshop for 2022 took place on January 31st. At tonight's meeting there will be an ordinance to revise certain job titles and salaries.

Tax Collector submitted a report for January 2022, showing a total received amount of \$158,577.35.

City Clerk's Office submitted a report for January 2022, showing a total amount received of \$9,486.24.

Public Works:

Council President Kozlowski read the January 2022 Public Works Council Report:

- Plowed and salted municipal streets and buildings during three (3) snow events in January
- Completed preliminary damage assessment with City OEM Coordinator in regards to the recent blizzard (Winter Storm Kenan) with hopes of FEMA reimbursement
- Happy to report we received a grant for \$481.00 through Statewide Insurance, this will help provide safety PPE for the department (high-vis vests & rain gear)
- Finished bi-annual storm drain inspection and cleaning

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that the City will begin working on 2022 Community Day. Councilmember Nass added that he will be working with Councilmember Bugdon on some upcoming Eagle Scout Projects.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that there was one (1) chimney fire on St. John's Lane. On the morning on February 7th the Fire Company responded to an accident on Cologne-Port Road.

Construction Committee:

Council President Kozlowski reported that the Committee met last week and this week at the Old Garage to evaluate the structure. City Engineer Doran has agreed to meet with our Public Works Department while they excavate the footings. He will take photos and make a recommendation based on what they find. This will be done at no charge to the City. After the recommendation is made, they can move forward with an executive committee. They are also in discussions regarding other projects in town such as: the gravel pit, the storm drain and the dam.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported that a budget workshop is scheduled February 16, 2022. The Board of School Estimates is invited to attend. The school's budget this year was helped with COVID funds received, so we will have to see how this year is going to go.

Planning Board:

No report

Code Enforcement/Construction:

No report

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has not received any requests for equipment. Once the weather is better, she will be going through her sheds to take an inventory. For any donations, Councilmember Bugdon should be contacted directly rather than dropping them off to the Convenience Center.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

No report

Historical:

Councilmember Riegel reported that Heritage Society will be meeting at City Hall at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. They will be discussing the parade. Councilmember Bugdon suggested they reach out to Cedar Creek High School Band for the parade.

Mayor Giberson added that she was contacted by the Sons of the American Revolution in regard to them coming and doing a special ceremony at the cemetery behind City Hall. They will be honoring and registering four (4) revolutionary war soldiers buried there. They are planning for this event to take place on October 8, 2022. Mayor Giberson would like to have City Hall open that day so they can see the mural in Council Chambers.

Liquor Licensing:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Jack Connor, 35 Clarks Landing Road, introduced his friends Steve and Barbara Fiedler. He invited them to tonight's meeting in anticipation of the city passing the resolution listed later tonight which supports the participation in the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification program. Mr. Connor added that Steve is the writer, director, and creator of the "Friends Along the Mullica" movie. Steve Fiedler presented Mr. Connor with a plaque which Mr. Connor then presented to Mayor and Council. Mr. Conner is excited for Port Republic to join as a Sustainable Jersey partner and Green Team.

Ashley Gilliam, 270 Chestnut Neck Road, read a letter to Mayor and Council regarding backyard farming and proposing changes to be made to the City's Code. Council President Kozlowski responded that the proposed changes would need to be reviewed by the City's Zoning Officer, Kevin Cain, and by the Planning/Zoning Board. They will begin this process.

Mike Trupkiewicz, 588 Pomona Avenue, questioned the item listed on the agenda for the pole barn located at Block 14, Lot 7. More specifically, he wanted to know if the lot in question is private or public. He is interested because he too would like to construct a pole barn in the future. Council President Kozlowski responded that it is a private lot dealing with discrepancies with Zoning. He added that Mr. Trupkiewicz should contact the Building Inspector for the procedure.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank You Letter to Public Works Department from Port Republic School District
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

43-2022 Resolution Supporting Participation in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

44-2022 Amending Resolution 19-2022 – Appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

45-2022 Authorizing a Non-Fair and Open Professional Service Contract with James M. Rutala Associates, LLC

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – 1st READING/INTRODUCTION:

01-2022 An Ordinance Establishing the Salaries and Wages of Certain Officials, Officers and Employees of the City of Port Republic

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gravel Pit

Council President Kozlowski explained that there is a bid package put together for dredging, but Council is looking at other possible options for the location. Council agreed to taking the fence down. Councilmember Riegel would like “No Trespassing” signs posted.

Storm Drain

Council President Kozlowski explained that this is in reference to the storm drain that drains near the beach. The City Engineer has submitted preliminary drawings and we received a preliminary proposal from a company that has done work in Harvey Cedars, NJ with Bill Montag. Our CFO and Auditor have informed us that we need to go out to bid with this project.

Dam

We have had meetings with Stockton University and Congressman Jeff VanDrew’s office in attendance. The City obtained the first set of dam review preformed by Collier’s Engineering. We are now at the second stage where we need to go regionally and preform water flow analysis. We are looking at a preliminary estimate of approximately \$100,000 where we need to move forward with finding assistance or a plan for funding. After the water flow studies, we will move forward with plans for construction, depending on which route the City wishes to take. We could decide to automate the sluice gates (on the lower cost end) up to creating a spillway (much more costly).

NEW BUSINESS:

School Board Referendum Litigation, New Jersey Superior Court Docket No. ATL-L-3914-21

Attorney Went stated that last this afternoon he received the proposed referendum question and proposed interpretive statement from School Board Attorney Will Donio.

Councilmember Giberson is not in agreement with the proposed question and proposed

interpretive statement. He feels they need to further define the role of the Board of School Estimates. Attorney Went suggested they meet in executive session to discuss this further. Once we agree, the approved question and interpretive statement will be forwarded to Judge Savio for his approval. Thereafter, the question will be on the November 2022 Election.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson introduced Mike Trupkiewicz. He is a cyclist and father of a first grader at Port Republic School. He will be doing a race in June 2024 going from California to Maryland. He will be on a team of four (4) people. They will be doing this cross-country race in a period of six (6) days. To help raise funds for the Port School, he will be doing live stream 24-hour long workout. Funds will be raised for the Port Republic Education Foundation.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Paul Smisek, 111 Moss Mill Road, asked if there will be any potential for the gravel pit location to be used for commercial use. Council President Kozlowski we are still researching ideas.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 2-2022 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. Block 14, Lot 7 Pole Barn

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Giberson moved, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to enter into executive session at 7:14 pm.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Allgeyer moved, seconded of Councilmember Giberson and carried to close executive session at 7:49 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk