

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. JUNE 14, 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 Bugdon and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

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

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Giberson, Thomas Kurtz

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Raymond 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 MAY 10, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 10, 2022, EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2022 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Bugdon (PO # 22-00263)

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN: Bugdon (PO #22-00263)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Trooper Ferrera of the New Jersey State Police was in attendance. He had no report for the city.

Council President Kozlowski spoke about the ongoing issue with ATVs in town. Councilmember Allgeyer added that the ATV's are starting to use the roadways. Council President Kozlowski added that the same issue is being had with golf carts. A main area of concern is near the City's old landfill (on Cologne-Port Road). At least 5-6 trucks are coming in with trailers, parking them there and then going off on the off roading vehicles.

Administrative/Personnel:

No report

Public Works:

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

- Assisted with Triathlon (setup, breakdown, & road closures).
- Removed trees at the school and around playground.
- Continued tree trimming throughout town.
- Chris Johnson (part-time dump employee) will serve as our seasonal laborer
- Monitored and lowered the dam as needed.
- Worked with B&J Recycling to remove brush pile at the City dump.
- New dump truck is finished! We were previously told that the truck could not be released until the recall is repaired. However, the truck was delivered today.
- Annual Stormwater Report & Certification completed and submitted to the NJDEP.

Councilmember Riegel suggested that we schedule the company to chip the brush pile annually. Councilmember Kozlowski explained that this had been done in the past, but the company we used previously had gotten backed up.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that everything is good to go for the upcoming Community Event on Saturday, June 18th. All the lifeguards have been scheduled for the summer. Everything is going nicely at the beach. Beach badges sales prior to Memorial Day increased from \$2,980 (2021) to \$4,644 (2022). During the month of May there were issues with jet skiers, but the issue has since improved. The floating dock has been repaired.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that there was a housefire on Main Street. The Fire Department was called out to the Parkway for an accident with a car going the wrong way. They were on this call from 11:00 pm until 2:00 am. 123 Old New York Road was experiencing electrical issues. The Roast Beef Dinner turnout was okay.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported that the new Interim Superintendent will start on July 1st. He is a retired superintendent from another school district so the school will not have to pay for his benefits. This will save the school approximately \$35,000.00. The Fire Company and the City's Public Works Department did a tremendous job of trimming the school's tree line. With the joint effort they were able to complete the job in only 3 hours. The school is starting to get quotes on a new roof. They are looking forward to beginning their summer projects. They are also still looking for someone to come in for afternoon cleaning.

Councilmember Bugdon spoke about the lack of notice on the school's behalf for the cancelling and rescheduling of their beach day. Mayor Giberson believes the beach day has been rescheduled for tomorrow (June 15th) and agrees the school should be notifying the City.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met last night to review a variance for Allen, which was approved. She gave all of Council copies of the recommendation from the Planning Board for the livestock ordinance. She is hoping that Council can come together next month to provide any suggestions. The committee that handled this did amazing and she thinks they covered everything. Council President Kozlowski feels that to save time, a committee of council members should be made up to review the recommendation. The committee will be made up of Mayor Giberson, Council President Kozlowski and Councilmember Nass. This committee will meet and bring recommendations to Council.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of May. During the month, a total of 10 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 6 Alterations
- 2 Zoning Permits
- 2 CO
- *Total of 10*

Council President Kozlowski added that he spoke with Construction Official Cain who told him that he will get Council an easy-to-read synopsis on marijuana licensing.

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has received donations and had many requests and returns of health aides.

The two previously scheduled City-wide cleanups were cancelled. She is planning on doing a clean up event at the end of September. She has three young men in Boy Scout Troop #21 who are working on their Eagle Scout Projects. They will be doing clean ups and she will be able to pay them from the Clean Communities Grant funds. One of the projects will be to refurbish the concession stand. The other two projects will be in the park/sports area as well. Mayor Giberson confirmed that Councilmember Nass will be supervising the boys as they do these clean up projects.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

No report

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Heritage Society will be set up under the pavilion on Community Day where they will be selling t-shirts, sketches of Port Republic and Christmas ornaments. There will be pictures of their mission and goal. They want to educate and get more people to come out for the Heritage Society.

Liquor Licensing:

Council President Kozlowski told Attorney Went that they need to get together to discuss the process that the City must go through to have the liquor license issue on the ballot for referendum. Attorney Went responded according to the statute, a petition will be needed that is signed by at least 15% of the registered voters. This would allow City Council to put it on the ballot for a referendum. This is different than the recent school type referendum that the City dealt with. Once the petition is

deemed acceptable, City Council can vote on a resolution to add the referendum question to the ballot. If the question passes, the city can then do an ordinance for the issuance of liquor licenses. The City can thereafter do a resolution to issue the license/licenses to the highest bidder after a bid process. Council President Kozlowski requested that Attorney Went provide a detailed memo to the city with the step-by-step process. In his mind, it is hard to make the statement that we need to save the school without taking steps to generate revenue. It'll be up to the voters. Councilmember Riegel asked if the petition would have to be circulated by a resident. Council President Kozlowski responded that he thinks anyone could do it. Mayor Giberson asked what kind of money the City could generate from allowing the licenses. Council President Kozlowski responded that the initial sale is dependent on the market, but it could generate from a quarter of a million to half a million dollars. There is additionally an annual licensing fee.

Construction:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Kylie Pelican 34 Old New York Road asked permission from Council to state a youth clean up program within the City. She feels that Port Republic is a beautiful city and that it should be kept clean and nice and should be respected. If it was to be approved, she would like to make a post on social media to have volunteers come to Port for a signup day. She would like to have the cleanups on Sunday evenings as it will be cooler. Port Republic has been her home for 14 years and is basically her playground. She walks around the streets and different trails often and all she notices is litter. She doesn't understand how people can do this to such a beautiful town. Councilmember Bugdon gave her contact information to Kylie. As the Clean Communities Coordinator for the City, she will work with her on this project. She thinks it is wonderful and Council agrees. Mayor Giberson told Kylie that she is very young, and it is wonderful to have that kind of ambition.

Michael Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, on the 21st of May the beach was destroyed. However, when he drove by again around 11:00 am it was cleaned up. Council President Kozlowski explained that the area was vandalized. Garbage cans were stolen. Resident Clinton Seltzer contacted Council about the incident. He and his children cleaned up the area. Mr. Trupkiewicz also commented that the property across the street (57 Pomona Avenue) has not cut their grass. Clerk Campellone responded that a letter was sent to the property owner and there is a 14-day period for the property owner to respond to the letter.

Scott Summerill, 114 Central Avenue, discussed the continuing issue of speeding on Central Avenue. The City did put out a solar speed sign on the street, but he does not feel it is in the right place. He feels the speeding issue is more relevant at the end of the street closest to Pomona Avenue. A video was emailed to Council by Mr. Summerrill on Sunday evening which shows a Pontiac vehicle speeding on Central Avenue. He explains this is an ongoing issue. Council previously suggested to him that he contact the State Police and he has twice. The last time he spoke with the Troopers he was told that they do not have the resources to park a car on the roadway, which he understands. The Trooper did suggest that he could make a complaint through the Central Municipal Court. He has since contacted them but has not heard anything back. Clerk Campellone stated she could email the prosecutor to get more information. Attorney Went said he could also speak with Judge Sandson who helped spearhead the County Court project to see if he can offer any help on citizen complaints. Mayor Giberson suggested he try to take a picture of the neighbor who is speeding while going by the solar speed sign as proof. Council President Kozlowski said that they will do what they can.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you letter from Interim School Superintendent Carmine Bonanni Jr. to DPW Department Dave and Kyle for trimming the school's tree line

Acknowledged

Thank you letter from Interim School Superintendent Carmine Bonanni Jr. to the Port Republic Fire Company for trimming the school's tree line

Acknowledged

Thank you letter from Mayor Giberson to the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company for removing trees and branches at the school

Acknowledged

Email from Nicole Rein of the USDA survey results June capture

Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

60-2022 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a Portion of Mill Street (Phase II)

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

61-2022 Resolution to Hire Ron Garbutt Dr. for One Day as Fire Inspector for Community Day (Food Trucks)

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

62-2022 Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application Funded by Atlantic City Electric

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

63-2022 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Clean Communities

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

Councilmember Bugdon commented that we have been received the grant amount of \$4,000.00 since the Clean Communities Program was implemented in 1988. Clerk Campellone explained that the amount received is configured according to population.

64-2022 Resolution Authorizing the Atlantic County Clerk to Print a Referendum Question with Interpretive Statement on the Official Ballot to be Used in the General Election to be Held on November 8, 2022

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson, Kurtz

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Dam – A DPW Meeting was held on Monday, June 13th with Mayor Giberson, Council President Kozlowski, Councilmember Allgeyer and Clerk Campellone. The project is still where we had left it. We have spent time looking for funding. The next step is to conduct a regional watershed study which will cost approximately \$100,000.00. Because it is preliminary work and not the actual construction of the dam, we must see if any grant opportunities would apply for this. Another option would be to incorporate this project into a bond. In the meantime, we will continue to reach out to Congressman VanDrew's office for assistance. At this time, they are focusing on the dam job at Lake Lenape. When that is completed, they have agreed to work with us. Mayor Giberson added that a meeting was had with our Grant Writer in which we provided a "wish list" of the projects we would like to see accomplished in town and he is looking to help the City obtain grants that would apply to our needs.
- Storm Drain – This project is still on schedule to begin Fall 2022. The plan is to have this projected completed by our Public Works Department with assistance from another town. By doing the project this way, it will save the City a substantial amount of money.
- Community Day – The event will be on Saturday, June 18th beginning at 3:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Kids jumping at the bulkhead – Councilmember Riegel stated this is a constant issue and she feels that to deter them we should create an ordinance that there is no trespassing in the area and have a fine up to \$5,000.00. She feels that this would deter them more than the signs currently there that say, "no jumping" and "no diving". The Trooper in attendance stated they get many calls about this. Attorney Went said we can work on a no trespassing ordinance and have a draft ready for the July City Council Meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT / PROCLAMATIONS:

- Playground Grant – Mayor Giberson met with the Recreation Committee, and they discussed having a playground area in town. This all started with the first and second graders writing letters that they wanted a playground. They saw something that if they were able to get a \$5,000.00 grant, they thought they would be able to afford. They met with a playground designer for a fitness area. The equipment would include things you could jump on, a balance beam, etc. They picked out \$2,600.00 worth of equipment and the quote came out to be \$9,300.00. They will have to come up with creative ways to come up with an additional

\$5,000.00 to move forward with the plan. Bill Smallwood of PRAF also said they may be able to have money to put towards the project. We are continuing to work on this project.

- Celebration of Councilmember Bugdon – in the book that will be available on Community Day they have included a celebration of a citizen and that citizen is Doris Bugdon. Councilmember Bugdon will be the Grand Marshal of the parade. The City received a seedling of a salem oak tree which is from a 500 year old oak tree which fell. This seedling will be planted, and the tree will be dedicated to Councilmember Bugdon.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Resident from 34 Old New York Road, last year there were turtle eggs which were being moved and/or broken by kids. They were located near Main Street. She asked if something could be put around the eggs to protect them. Clerk Campellone responded that she can contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Council President Kozlowski thanked the young kids who came to participate in their government. This is how people should be able to solve their problems. He additionally thanked Councilmember Bugdon for providing a solution to them.

Councilmember Bugdon thanked Mayor and Council.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 6-2022 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk