

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. JULY 19, 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

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

ATTORNEY: William Kaufmann, 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 JUNE 14, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 2022 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Council President Kozlowski reported that our Emergency Management Coordinator is currently out on medical leave. A solar speed sign will be moved from Central Avenue to Clark's Landing Road.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Kozlowski reported that one of our Public Works employees is out on medical leave.

Tax Collector submitted a memo stating that the 2022 Tax Sale scheduled for July 13, 2022, has been cancelled due to all 2021 delinquencies being paid in full.

Tax Collector submitted a report for June 2022, showing a total received amount of \$45,984.72.

City Clerk's Office submitted a report for June 2022, showing a total amount received of \$9,277.85.

Chief Financial Officer submitted a report for May 2022, showing an ending balance of \$1,488,237.72

Public Works:

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

- Assisted with Port Day and parade (set up, breakdown & road closures).
- Continued tree trimming throughout town.
- Monitored and lowered the dam as needed.
- Worked with B&J Recycling to remove brush pile at the City dump. Finally completed.
- Received the new Ford mason dump truck from Beyers Ford. Truck was outfitted with a plow and rear mounted salt spreader.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that there has been an issue with the youth baseball teams not maintaining the ballfield. Former Councilmember Thomas Kurtz will speak with the coaches on Councilmember Bugdon's behalf to explain what needs to be done.

Fire and Ambulance:

No report from Council. Fireman Gene Hawn reported to Council that this past month has been very busy with both fire and vehicle accident calls.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported that the new superintendent, Dennis Anderson, has started. Summer school has started, and it is going very well.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel was unable to attend the Planning Board Meeting on Monday, July 11th. Mayor Giberson attended the meeting and reported that they approved the resolution for the Allen property.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of June. During the month, a total of 19 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 10 Alterations
- 1 Zoning Permits
- 1 CO Inspection for Resale
- *Total of 12*

There is currently one active code enforcement issue at 57 Pomona Avenue and 80 Blakes Lane.

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported she has had many requests for physical aids which have been fulfilled. She has also received many physical aids coming back. She requested help from Public Works Laborer Chris Johnson to help her to reorganize her supply shed. She additionally reported that PTR checks for seniors that are part of the tax reimbursement program have begun to go out.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

Council President Kozlowski reported that he received information from Construction Official Kevin Cain that he will share with all of Council. This explains the process if someone were to apply for a license.

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that they have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 27th at 6:00 pm. All meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month. They will be taking a trip over to the old garage so everyone can see the building and get an idea of their hopes and dreams. They will be having a guest speaker attend who is involved with the Absecon Historical Society.

Liquor Licensing:

Attorney Kaufmann explained that his firm reached out to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. They researched the issue into how the City came to be in its present state where we have an ordinance that indicates that alcoholic beverage sales are not permitted. The ordinance in question, Ordinance 04-1965, was adopted in 1965. Research by the division could not find that the issue of alcoholic beverage within the City was ever submitted to a public vote. That being the case, the decision as to whether Mayor and Council would want to proceed with the process of converting from a dry town to a town with liquor licenses rests in the hands of the governing body. The process can be as simple as repealing the ordinance from 1965. This is done by introducing and adopting a new ordinance stating the previous ordinance be repealed. The new ordinance would need to include the provisions relative to issuance of a liquor license. The City would be subject to the number of licenses allowed by population. We would also have to decide the hours alcohol can be served and similar issues. Alternatively, the division indicates this can be an issue which is submitted to the voters by referendum. He would have to look further into those statutes to see how we could implement that process. Councilmember Riegel questioned if we are entitled to issue one each of plenary retail and plenary consumption, or just one total. Attorney Kaufmann responded he believes it would be one of each type. He added the governing body would also need to consider where they would want the license to be. This would require a review of our zoning ordinance. Amending the zoning ordinance would be a process all on its own. Regardless of if the City decided to go to referendum or not, the zoning ordinance amendment would be completely up to the governing body.

Council President Kozlowski added that this will not be a process that will happen quickly. The Liquor Licensing Committee will meet and present to City Council in the future what they would like to do.

Construction:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Mike Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, questioned if there have been discussions about fees for usage of the boat ramp along Park Avenue. Council President Kozlowski responded that it has been discussed and is on the list of things to do. This is something we could try to have for next season. When previously discussed, the issue came down to enforcement. Clerk Campellone has suggested in the past that we review all of our fees. Councilmember Riegel added that she knows there was previously a concern with charging residents, and we are not able to only charge a fee for non-residents. She had an idea that the City could charge for parking fees there and the residents could park for free. Mr. Trupkiewicz added that the Anti-Litter Campaign has been going very well.

The children are participating, and they do a clean-up about once every week. They typically pick-up around 4-5 buckets just from the beach area. They had plans to do a clean-up along Pitney Road but decided against it due to the ticks being so bad. They will do that area during the winter.

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, asked when the paving of Mill Street will be taking place. Mayor Giberson informed him that the portion nearest his residence would be done by the County after the bridge project is complete. The project is due to be complete by next Spring. Mr. Martin asked if anything could be done now since the roadway is so damaged from the increased traffic. Council President Kozlowski explained that the County does not want to do the project until the bridge is complete, and the traffic is moved back to the bridge.

Mr. Martin additionally questioned if Mayor and Council have approached Galloway Township Police to see if they would be interested in policing the town. Council President Kozlowski responded that there has been mention of possibly strengthening Scott Winneberger's position within the City. Council President Kozlowski added that when he was Acting Mayor last year he had discussions with the Galloway Township Police Chief, but he has since retired and there is a new Chief. He expressed that Mayor and Council are just as stressed with the current situation as the residents are. But they are working on hopefully giving Scott something more where he feels empowered to deal with the State Police or Galloway, etc. Mr. Martin expressed his concern that maybe the issue has to do with our court being transferred to the Atlantic County Central Municipal Court in Mays Landing and no longer being local. Mayor Giberson responded that most traffic violations are now heard on Zoom so the Troopers shouldn't have to go to Mays Landing for these matters. Council President Kozlowski urged him to continue to make the calls to the State Police. Councilmember Allgeyer added that the State Police have been very responsive near his end of town recently.

Al Theiss, 639 Chestnut Neck Road, spoke to Mayor and Council regarding his concerns of the 5G transmitters around town. Council President Kozlowski thanked Mr. Theiss for sharing with Mayor, Council and members of the public.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Resignation Letter from Councilmember Thomas Kurtz / Memo from Clerk Campellone Regarding Vacancy Procedure

Council President Kozlowski read the resignation letter. He explained to Council that they have 30 days to appoint a successor to fulfil Tom's unexpired term. There is no regard to party as Tom was an independent candidate.

RESOLUTIONS:

65-2022 Resolution Authorizing Use of Facsimile Signature for Payroll Checking
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

66-2022 Resolution Urging the Swift Passage of S-330/A3804, which Shall Restore the Energy Tax Receipts to Municipalities

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel

NO:
ABSENT: Giberson
ABSTAIN:

67-2022 Resolution for Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System – Resolution Authorizing the City of Port Republic to Enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel
NO:
ABSENT: Giberson
ABSTAIN:

68-2022 Resolution to Award Contract to Arawak Paving for the Reconstruction of Wilson Avenue
On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel
NO:
ABSENT: Giberson
ABSTAIN:

69-2022 Resolution Authorizing Requested Leave of Absence Without Pay to Kyle Ayers
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel
NO:
ABSENT: Giberson
ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION/1ST READING:

03-2022 An Amendment to Chapter 196 Requiring the Registration and Maintenance of Certain Real Property by Mortgagees; Providing for Penalties and Enforcement, as well as the Regulation, limitation and Reduction of Abandoned Real Property Within the Municipality; Providing for Severability, Repealer, Codification, and an Effective Date
On the motion of Councilmember Nass, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Kozlowski, Nass, Riegel
NO:
ABSENT: Giberson
ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Nacote Creek Bridge Route 610 - Mayor Giberson had her first meeting with the Bridge Committee that included a very lengthy discussion regarding what color they should paint the bridge. The options were black, light blue or keeping it galvanized (no paint). Council unanimously decided that the bridge should remain unpainted and stay galvanized.
- Draft Livestock Ordinance – There was a meeting by the assigned committee and the Mayor. One committee member was unable to attend the meeting so they will reconvene over the next week or two to finalize some final details. They are aiming to have a first reading of the ordinance at the August City Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Draft No Trespassing Ordinance – The draft ordinance listed the fine amount as being \$5,000, however, there is a statute that limits municipal ordinance fines to \$2,000. This draft ordinance should be revised and ready for a first reading at the August City Council meeting.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, questioned if Stockton University and the other two facilities along Wilson Avenue should be sharing in the repaving costs. Council President Kozlowski responded that this project is being funded by a State grant.

Al Theiss, 639 Chestnut Neck Road, questioned if natural gas would be coming to town. Council President Kozlowski responded that it is not at this point in time.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / PROCLAMATIONS:

- Mayor Giberson thanked Gene Hawn for all the hard work he put in at the Port Day celebration. Everything went well with the food trucks. She had thought that the parade would be once every 5 years, however, the 7th graders are already planning what their float will be next year. So, it looks like we will have to do a parade every year now. We will also do the booklet again next year.
- On the same day as Port Day there was a medical issue that took place at the Transfer Station. Public Works employee Chris Johnson handled the situation very well.
- There will be a prescription drug take back event on October 29th. We'll hear more about that in the future.
- We are looking into possibly doing a Fall Festival on October 22nd which would include hayrides and a movie at night.
- Dedication of Salem Oak Tree to Councilmember Doris Bugdon after City Council Meeting
 - After adjournment of the meeting, Mayor, Council and members of the public went outside City Hall for the unveiling of a plaque which dedicates the Salem Oak tree to Councilmember Doris Bugdon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 7-2022 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk