

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. AUGUST 9, 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, Roger Giberson, Stanley Kozlowski, Jacob Nass, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, 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 JULY 19, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 2022 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Nass

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel (PO #22-00394)

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Nass

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel (PO #22-00394)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

No report

Administrative/Personnel:

Tax Collector submitted a report for July 2022, showing a total received amount of \$11,630.21.

City Clerk's Office submitted a report for July 2022, showing a total amount received of \$9,742.00.

Chief Financial Officer submitted a report for June 2022, showing an ending balance of \$1,278,908.70.

Public Works:

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

- Continued park and property maintenance throughout town
- Continued tree trimming throughout town
- Monitored and lowered the dam as needed

Mayor Giberson added that there has been some vandalism in town where Public Works needed to make repairs. She is grateful that they were quick and efficient in handling this issue.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that everything is going smoothly. She spoke with a new coach from the Sand Sharks baseball team, and he will be working with the Recreation Committee in dealing with the maintenance needed of the ballfield. He was given a key to utilize the concession stand. This will also allow him electric to use their pitching machine. He has also offered to help the boy scouts in doing their eagle scout project.

Councilmember Bugdon questioned the status of the cameras. Clerk Campellone confirmed the cameras have been installed. Councilmember Nass brought signs that state the area is under surveillance. He is donating these to the City.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that he spoke with Chief Yochim and everything is running smoothly.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported that the school obtained a LEAP Grant from the State in the amount of \$66,000.00. They will be looking into 3 scenarios. 1) How to keep the school open, which may include choice school. 2) The cost to send the students to Mullica Township or Galloway Township. 3) To become a charter school. They will not be telling the school system what to do, only doing and providing the research.

Planning Board:

No report

Code Enforcement/Construction:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of July. During the month, a total of 27 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 4 Additions
- 1 Zoning Permit
- 1 CO Inspection for Resale
- *Total of 6*

There are no current code enforcement issues.

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

No report

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

No report

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Heritage Society met on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, and they had Rob Reed speak to them. He runs both the Absecon and Galloway Historic Societies. Each organization is titled differently, and he was able to give them a lot of information. They also took a tour of the old garage. Someone also came into Council Chambers in City Hall to measure and provide an estimate for cabinets.

Liquor Licensing:

Council President Kozlowski thanked Attorney Kaufmann for the information he provided. They will most likely discuss the matter in executive session at the September or October meeting. They will hold a committee meeting prior to the discussion being held during an executive session.

Construction:

Mayor Giberson reported that the latest she has heard, the bridge is scheduled to open February 2023. Councilmember Bugdon told Mayor Giberson that she has been told that the type of metal the bridge is made of will need to be painted. Council previously unanimously decided that they bridge should be left unpainted. Mayor Giberson explained that we were only offering an opinion. It is in the hands of the County as it is their structure.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

70-2022 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 American Rescue Plan Funds (Amount - \$110,111.32)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

71-2022 Resolution Authorizing Requested Leave of Absence Without Pay to Kyle Ayers
Mayor Giberson stated that she received a doctor's note from Kyle stating that he can return on October 4th. The resolution does give him a return date of October 17th to offer some leeway. Mayor Giberson added that she spoke with both the Public Works Director and Supervisor and asked how they felt about the situation. They both shared that Kyle is a good worker and felt the City should hold his job for him to return.

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – ADOPTION:

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 Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to open public portion.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, stated that he is interested in the enforcement of properties which are not being lived in, that are run down, and the grass is not being cut. Council President Kozlowski responded that these types of complaints go through Kevin Cain who is the City's Code Enforcement Officer. However, according to the Ordinance up for adoption tonight, if the properties are in foreclosure, it is the responsibility of the bank to maintain that property. Clerk Campellone requested that if Mr. Haviland has any specific properties in mind, he can come in and make a complaint to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Michael Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, explained that in the town of Pemberton if a property was not maintained for 3 or more months there was a \$500 fee. Attorney Kaufmann explained that the fees listed in the Ordinance are prescribed by statute.

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION/1ST READING:

04-2022 An Ordinance by the City of Port Republic in Atlantic County, New Jersey Amending Chapter 201, Article I of the Port Republic Municipal Code Prohibiting Any Entry by the General Public Upon the Bulkhead Located at Mill Street in Tax Block 29, Lot 7

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Riegel questioned the status of the livestock ordinance. Clerk Campellone responded that we are waiting for Attorney Kaufmann to review the ordinance. Councilmember Riegel added that the ordinance will need to be reviewed by Kevin Cain for his recommendation for enforcement and fines.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MAYOR'S REPORT / PROCLAMATIONS:

- Mayor Giberson met with Assemblywoman Clair Swift from the 2nd legislative district which Port Republic will be a part of. She gave her a tour of the town and she thinks she really loves this place. She is very willing to help in any way she can. It was a great meeting.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Scott Summerill, 114 Central Avenue, questioned how the ordinance prohibiting any entry from the bulkhead will work when we have kids who just jump off of it. He added that a child around the age of 10 was jumping off of it this past weekend. Council responded that the parents will be fined unless they are 18 or older. Councilmember Bugdon questioned if a lifeguard on duty would be able to do enforcement under this ordinance. Attorney Kaufmann responded that he probably could write a ticket for the offense. Councilmember Giberson doesn't think we should have the lifeguards do that and that they should only be calling the State Police in these circumstances. Attorney Kaufmann added that he would need to review our ordinance relative to our lifeguards. In his experience, the lifeguards are often in public safety and under the umbrella of the police department. We may have limitations.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 8-2022 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. City Council Vacancy – Ward 1

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Allgeyer moved, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried to enter into executive session at 6:58 pm.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Riegel moved, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to close executive session at 7:09 pm.

NOMINATION OF SUCESSOR TO TEMPORARILY FILL CITY COUNCIL VACANCY:

Attorney Kaufmann explained that the order of business was to fill the Ward 1 vacancy on City Council. The seat has been vacant since the resignation of Councilmember Kurtz on July 12, 2022. At this juncture, City Council has the option to fill the vacancy temporarily until the November election. This is because the vacancy occurred prior to September 1st of the next to last year of the councilmember's term. The procedure is covered under the municipal vacancy law. The City Clerk did receive letters of interest to fill the vacancy. During closed session Council reviewed the qualifications of each person who expressed an interest in filling the seat. Council was more than satisfied that those who expressed an interest were well qualified to do so. However, the sentiment was that it would be better if the seat was to be filled at the November election as will have to happen anyway.

Attorney Kaufmann suggest that Council President Kozlowski entertain the following motion, which would be to abstain from filling the seat temporarily and to allow it to be filled in the normal course at the November General Election.

Councilmember Riegel moved, seconded of Councilmember Nass and carried to abstain from filling the seat temporarily and to allow it to be filled in the normal course at the November General Election.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT:

72-2022 Resolution to Appoint – Filling the Seat Vacated by Thomas Kurtz Until the Results of the General Election of November 8, 2022, are Certified

Resolution died due to lack of motion

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk