

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 13, 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, Donna Riegel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Jacob Nass

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: Michael Lario, 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 AUGUST 9, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 9, 2022, EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 2022 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Council President Kozlowski reported that he has spoken with Mayor Giberson regarding having City Council consider moving Scott Winneberger up from just the position of Emergency Management Coordinator to being the Director of Public Safety. It would be a similar part-time position. Clerk Campellone has worked on a job description for him. Scott feels that having this upgrade of title would better allow him to communicate with law enforcement agencies on a more official basis. Council President Kozlowski stated he feels this initiative would make sense for the town going forward. This will be something that will be incorporated into the budget and listed for approval at the January 2023 City Council Meeting.

Administrative/Personnel:

Tax Collector submitted a report for August 2022, showing a total received amount of \$759,907.53.

City Clerk's Office submitted a report for August 2022, showing a total amount received of \$4,346.69.

Chief Financial Officer submitted a report for July 2022, showing an ending balance of \$1,093,733.05.

Public Works:

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

- Continued Park and property maintenance throughout town
- Continued tree trimming throughout town
- Monitored and lowered the dam as needed
- DPW seasonal employee finished up on 9/9 and has resumed his duties as a part-time employee working the dump DPW Supervisor is working alone until laborer leave of absence is complete on 10/17
- Started maintenance on snow plowing/salting equipment

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported the following:

- She has requested from the baseball teams that they remove the temporary fencing and only put it up as needed. It is currently affecting the mowing of the field.
- She would like the City to reach out to Bill Smallwood of Port Republic Athletic Fund (PRAF) regarding the cracking in the surfaces of the tennis court and basketball courts.
- The lacrosse nets which were previously stored away should be put back onto the field to be utilized during the Fall.

Fire and Ambulance:

Chief John Yochim reported that everything is going well and they are getting prepared for their dinner in October.

Board of School Estimates:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- The school is getting ready to go out for bids for the roof. We have become a member of a co-op for this.
- School opening went smoothly.
- The lunch program is back to kids having to pay for lunch and the following year it will be free to all students again. They currently have 6 volunteers who serve lunch at the school.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, September 12th. There was one application for VanDaly which was approved unanimously.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

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

- 2 Alterations
- 1 New
- 1 Addition
- 3 Zoning Permits
- 2 CO Inspections for Resale
- *Total of 9*

There are no current code enforcement issues.

Senior Services / Clean Communities:

Councilmember Bugdon reported the following:

- A City-Wide Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 8th.
- Clean Communities will be distributing bags on Clean Up Day as well as through the school the day before the Fall Festival.
- Clean Communities will be funding the movie for the Fall Festival.
- She has so many physical aids that she does not have room for many more donations. At this time, she is only able to take donations of rollators.
- She will be working on creating a system where the items that are out on loan can be picked up and checked prior to being put back into rotation.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

No report

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported the following:

- The Heritage Society met last on August 24th.
- They are in need of display cases if anyone would be willing to donate them. They Mayor was able to find one to be donated, but they will need more.
- They are going to start bringing in items from Councilmember Bugdon's house and cataloging them. Galloway Township has a software program to catalog artifacts, documents, etc. and they will be giving their extra copy to the Heritage Society.

Councilmember Giberson added that the City has been trying to get the Heritage Society going for many years and he thinks they should have something in next year's budget to help them get started. Mayor Giberson added that the Heritage Society does have money within their budget from money they have raised.

Construction:

No report

Liquor Licensing:

Council President reported the following:

- They held a couple committee meetings over the past month, one of which Attorney Kaufmann attended.
- in 1934 and 1965 liquor licensing was banned in Port Republic.

- When he was interim Mayor, in October 2021, the committee was formed and the City's law firm was requested to do research on the steps it would take to rescind or overturn the current code regarding liquor licensing.
- The purpose of allowing the issuance of liquor licensing within the town would be to increase revenue in the town. The increased revenue could then be used to help the school, help the fire department, help public safety, etc.
- The two options to move forward, if Council so chooses, would be 1) for City Council to create an Ordinance to rescind and replace the current code, or 2) for any member of the public to create and submit a petition requesting that a question be placed on the ballot at the next General Election.
- This is a matter that will not be rushed into.
- The steps will be as follows:
 - Council President Kozlowski requested the attorney present Council with a draft of what the Ordinance to rescind and replace would look like.
 - The committee will meet to review the draft Ordinance.
 - They will hold a Special Meeting just for liquor licensing.
 - If it is received well, they will then have a first and thereafter second reading of the Ordinance.

Councilmembers commented with their feelings on the issue:

- Councilmember Giberson has no issue with Council doing their due diligence and obtaining a draft ordinance for review. He thinks that ultimately Council needs to make the decision if they want to move forward with voting on this. Additionally, they need to know which type of licenses they will be issuing. This would entail whether they intend to issue both licenses: retail consumption and retail distribution, or only one or the other.
- Councilmember Allgeyer is also in agreement with moving forward with reviewing a draft ordinance.
- Councilmember Riegel feels that the matter should be presented as a referendum question on the ballot to find out how the voters feel.
- Councilmember Bugdon feels this is necessary one way or the other. The City needs ratables. We cannot continue to raise taxes until taxpayers have to leave the community. This is an excellent source of a ratable if the people want it.
- Councilmember Giberson expressed that he feels it should be presented as two separate ordinances, one for each type of license. That way they can decide if they want to pass one, the other, or both at the same time.
- Council President Kozlowski stated that the Attorney will be drafting one ordinance which would allow both types of licenses.

Attorney Michael Lario advised Council that his office will begin working on a draft ordinance to present to Council. He added that the ordinance itself can be tailored specifically to the type of license(s) they wish to move forward with. Many portions of the draft ordinance will remain the same, regardless of the license type(s).

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Al Theiss, 639 Chestnut Neck Road, expressed his concern of 5G in the City as well as COVID-19 vaccines. Council President Kozlowski thanked him for sharing this information with Council and the public.

Michael Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, voiced his concern with the turtles that are dying on his street. He requested a "turtle crossing" sign. Mayor Giberson said that they will look into that.

James Winand, 225 Chestnut Neck Road, explained that his son is looking to complete his Eagle Scout Project. He spoke with Councilmember Nass previously. His son would like to power wash and paint the concession stand and sidewalks. Councilmember Bugdon responded that Councilmember Nass has been working with her and relaying what the kids would like to do for their projects. She has no problems with Mr. Winand's son doing this project, however he cannot power wash or do anything with the back side of the concession stand with the mural. Mayor Giberson added that the mural side of the concession stand can be sealed. Councilmember Bugdon advised that the Boy Scouts will earn \$200 for the cleanup on October 8th to help with the funds needed for their projects. Additionally, some of the coaches associated with the Sand Sharks and Outlaws baseball teams have offered to help with the Eagle Scouts Projects if needed. She asked Mr. Winand to let Councilmember Nass when they intend to start the project.

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:

- Management Letter Regarding Audit 2021 – *acknowledged*
- Letter from Statewide Insurance Park Inspection Report – *Mayor Giberson has a meeting with the City's Grant Writer and she will bring this issue to his attention.*

RESOLUTIONS:

73-2022 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

74-2022 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Extend the Third Quarter Grace Period
(*extended until September 8, 2022*)

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

75-2022 Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – October 6, 2022

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

76-2022 Resolution Requesting the Release of \$4,577.95 in Surplus from the City of Port Republic's Share of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund's Aggregate Excess Loss Contingency Fund

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

77-2022 Resolution Recognizing and Reaffirming the City of Port Republic's Obligations to the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – ADOPTION:

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

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, questioned what the ordinance means. Council President responded that the ordinance is in place to deter the individuals who jump into the water from the bulkhead. If they are caught, they will be subject to a \$2,000.00 fine. This will not affect the people who fish in that area. Mr. Martin expressed his concern that the ordinance does not specify that this would not affect fishers who fish from the bulkhead. Council explained that this will be used for the kids jumping for the bulkhead and causing a nuisance, not people who are peacefully fishing.

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

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Kozlowski, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- USDA's Final Report – Canada Goose Work for 2022 – *Council will need to decide in October if they would like to continue this service in 2023.*
- Dam – *Mayor Giberson will follow-up with the City's Grant Writer on the status of this project.*
- Storm Drain – *This job will be done in house and is scheduled to begin November 2022.*
- Gravel Mine – *Mayor Giberson stated that she will be discussing the possibility of a community solar project at the site with the Grant Writer.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Community Solar – *previously addressed under unfinished business.*
- Fall Newsletter Information Needed (to be posted next week) – *The deadline to submit anything for the Newsletter will be Thursday, September 15th.*
- Halloween (Date & Hours) – *Trick-or-Treat will be Monday, October 31st from 6 pm – 8 pm.*
- Fall Festival – *The festival will be help on Saturday, October 22nd from 4pm -7pm. There will be several activities including: hayrides, pumpkin painting, movie shown, scarecrow making, photo opportunities and parade.*

MAYOR’S REPORT / PROCLAMATIONS:

- Letter to Mayor from NJDOT Route 167 – *After being contacted by the owners of the boat yard, Mayor Giberson wrote a letter to the State explaining to them that the roadway has potholes is unsafe. The State responded by saying that the roadway was inspected by them and is a high priority.*
- Mayor Giberson thanked Councilmember Bugdon for her idea of holding a Celebration of Life at the pavilion for the family of James Milton.
- There is someone who is interested in making a sign for City Hall. The project is in the works.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Chief John Yochim, 462 Chestnut Neck Road, questioned if the City monitors the side of the bulkhead on the beach side.

Michael Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, expressed his concern over the state of the Smallwood Gardens area. Mayor Giberson responded that this area has been maintained by Janet Longer for several years. She no longer feels she can do so. She also spoke with the Green Team and they said the garden has too many invasive plants. If anyone would like to help maintain and clean up the garden that would be great. Mr. Trupkiewicz asked if it could be torn up and started over. The Mayor responded that she will speak with Ms. Longo first to see if that would be a possibility. She will contact Mr. Trupkiewicz.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ES 9-2022 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk