

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 p.m. January 3, 2023
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 Giberson, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Jacob Nass, Donna Riegel, Michael Turner

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

ATTORNEY: William Kaufmann, Esq.

Council President Giberson 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 location of this meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 13, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2023 BILL LIST

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

No report

Administrative/Personnel:

No report

Public Works:

Mayor Giberson reported that the Public Works Laborers are working diligently. They are building picnic tables. They have been doing amazing work and get things done right away when asked.

Recreation:

No report

Fire and Ambulance:

No report

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board will be meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023, and they will be discussing the redevelopment plan.

Code Enforcement/Construction:

No report

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she is still passing out physical health aides and getting them back. This is an ongoing great project.

Marijuana Legalization & Licensing:

Council President Giberson is thinking this committee is one that can be dissolved because the issue is not going anywhere.

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that at their last meeting Jim Schroder brought in a picture of what the old garage used to look like as the fire house. They have \$3,538.28 in their account. Councilmember Riegel stated they are now even closer to getting the old garage repurposed to store all the historical items for the Heritage Society, this way they can protect the history and heritage of Port Republic.

Council President Giberson stated that he has spoken with Councilmember Riegel and for a long time they have been trying to get a place to hold of the historic artifacts, many of which are being held in Councilmember Bugdon's personal residence. They have looked at homes within town, they had discussed swapping property out with the Port Gunning Gun to use the building as a combination senior center and historical society/artifact storage area. It is time now for Mayor and Council to get something done. Councilmember Riegel, Mayor Giberson and Councilmember Bugdon have really taken the ball with this project and run

with it. There is nothing more important than preserving the history of our town. They need a place to have everything in one place. They have done a great job getting glass cases in the back of Council Chambers, but it is time to make this happen. Councilmember Riegel added that they have many dedicated members. Council President Giberson expressed that this needs to be one of City Council's top priorities. Councilmember Riegel responded that she appreciates this. She has been working on this project for so long.

Liquor Licensing:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Councilmember Allgeyer thanked the State Police for the work they did regarding the 4-wheelers that come into the area near his house on New Year's Day. He added that in the area where Public Works put signs up, they had no problems at all. There were probably about 100 trucks in total, and last year there had to have been about 150. Council President Giberson stated that this is something that needs to be worked on.

Robert Adams, Jr. is building a house on Clarks Landing Road and questioned Council whether South Jersey Gas will be coming into town with gas service. Council President Giberson responded that the subject of South Jersey Gas coming into town was brought up at the last City Council Meeting and since then Councilmember Nass has reached out to the gas company. They are working on getting more information, but he doesn't know how fast this can happen. It is a possibility. They should have more information by the next meeting. Mayor Giberson added that there was an ordinance adopted in 2013 which gave South Jersey Gas the right to come into town. She has since reached out to the gas company to find out their plan and is still waiting to set up a meeting with them. Councilmember Nass added that with the franchise agreement in place, residents can contact South Jersey Gas on their own to request gas service. He suggested Mr. Adams contact South Jersey Gas directly and express his interest in obtaining gas service.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

39-2023 Appointment of Chief Financial Officer (*Jenna Kelly*)

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

40-2023 Appointment of Tax Collector (*Renee DeSalvo*)
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

41-2023 Stigma Free Atlantic Initiative Resolution
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Set Date for January Budget Workshop Meeting
 - The meeting was set for January 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm
- “Park” at the End of the Bridge Construction
 - Council President Giberson stated that we have a great area for boating (the boat ramp) and a great area for fishing. He thinks that anything that is done over there will promote activity and will be detrimental to that area. It is unsafe on either approach to the bridge. He thinks if something wants to be done with the trussell, there is a ton of room in the environmental park area. We could make a spot, but to put a display area where people are going to stop and try to park, and visit is a bad idea. Mayor Giberson responded that the County wanted to plant grass there and she thinks that is a terrible idea. People will park there and sink. Council President Giberson responded that they should place guardrails so no one can park near the bridge. Councilmember Riegel asked if the trussell could be added to the Harry Bowen Memorial Park area. Mayor Giberson stated that nothing is set in stone at this time. Mayor Giberson will contact the County regarding placing a guardrail in place rather than planting grass.

MAYOR’S REPORT / PROCLAMATIONS:

No report / proclamation

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Pastor Frank Brown, on behalf of Port Community Church, thanked the citizens of Port Republic who helped get their ceiling back in shape. It was a \$100,000.00 project and they are within a few hundred dollars of reaching that goal. A lot of the money came out of the citizens' pockets, and he wants to let them know he appreciates them and their generosity.

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 1-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk