

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. APRIL 11, 2023
CITY COUNCIL MEETING & BUDGET ADOPTION

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, Donna Riegel (*joined virtually*), Michael Turner

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Jacob Nass

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, 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 MARCH 21, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 2023 BILL LIST

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

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

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, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Scott Winneberger reported this week we are participating in a statewide drill. Next week Scott will be attending Emergency Management Training. We also participated in a safety drill last week with Galloway Township OEM and participated in an active shooter drill at Absegami High School.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Giberson reported that everything is running smoothly.

Public Works:

Submitted by Public Work Director Bill Montag

- Continued tree trimming throughout town
- Refurbishing the old landscape trailer
- Adding/repairing old gates at Firemen's Pond
- Stripping and repainted lifeguard stand
- Installing new mower deck on old mower (doing in house using Joe Mason instead of contracting out)
- Rebuilding and revitalizing embankments around Nacote Creek

Councilmember Allgeyer along with Council President Giberson discussed patching the tennis and basketball courts for the time being.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she, along with Clerk Campellone and Mayor Giberson, have interviewed some youth for the open beach badge attendant positions. They have two lifeguards hired for the season.

Councilmember Turner reported that several checks have been received for the baseball field banners. He will be working with Clerk Campellone to get the documents that need to be sent to the printer. With the funds coming in, we can start moving forward with the maintenance of the baseball field. Councilmember Bugdon added that Councilmember Turner will also be looking into the repair and/or replacement of the water pump at the concession stand.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that the drill at Absegami High School went very well. The Fire Department recently purchased new helmets. The State requires that new helmets be purchased every 10 years, regardless of condition. The tanker is currently out on a call in Seaville.

Planning Board:

No meeting, no report

Code Enforcement/Construction:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of March. During the month, a total of 11 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 5 Alteration
- 0 Demo
- 1 New
- 0 Addition
- 2 Zoning Permits
- 3 CO Inspections for Resale
- *Total of 11*

There are no current code enforcement issues.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that a letter from Emergency Management will be going out to seniors in the community. This will help them collect information on residents who could need extra assistance during an emergency event.

Heritage Society:

Councilwoman Riegel reported that a letter went out to City Engineer Matt Doran regarding the RFP for the Old Garage. For the upcoming Earth Day event, the Heritage Society will be demonstrating colonial crafts.

Liquor Licensing:

No report

Land Use:

Council President Giberson reported the Land Use Committee met regarding the old gravel mine site located at 400 English Creek Road. Included in the agenda packets is a draft RFP for the Community Solar Project. At this time, we are not ready to move forward with that project, as they would like to go out for RFPs for dredging spoils at that location. Engineer Doran will start working on that RFP.

Councilmember Turner would still like to see if the land behind the City's Transfer Station would be a viable option for a community solar project. Council President Giberson responded that the property is deed restricted.

Councilmember Riegel would like to see a broader RFP be done for the old gravel mine location to ensure we are moving forward with the best option for the City. City Attorney Kaufmann responded that it is something we could do. In terms of the redevelopment of the site, if the City really wants to move forward with the dredging spoils, that should be step 1. That does not need to be part of the redevelopment of the property. If we intend on taking in dredging spoils, that will need to be a component of the RFP for the redevelopment.

Council made the decision to move forward with requesting a RFP for dredging spoils be done by Engineer Doran. They will gauge interest and depending on what is received, we can move forward with doing the RFP for the redevelopment.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, discussed an article written in The Press of Atlantic City regarding the keeping animals such as pigs and chickens in Egg Harbor Township. He would not want to see those kinds of issues here. Council President Giberson explained that while they did not pass the livestock ordinance, their plan is to tighten up the existing nuisance ordinance. Mayor Giberson added that she spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Cain and by not having anything in the code we are not in favor of the neighbor or the farmer. She would like to see us have something that says homeowners are allowed to have chickens. Councilmember Allgeyer added that the Atlantic County Health Department is also an avenue that can be used to aid in animal disputes and issues.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Review of Resolution 50-2023 determining Block 34, Lot 24, to be an Area in Need of Redevelopment (Non-Condemnation)
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Route 610 Bridge

Council President Giberson reported that the Public Works Committee met with the Engineer from Atlantic County to discuss some of the concerns that were addressed at the last City Council Meeting. One of those concerns was that there is to be no fishing off the bridge. There will be signs that there is to be no fishing, crabbing, etc. from the bridge. The Heritage Society would be allowed to hold a raffle. They would need to request permission from Dennis Levinson. However, the Heritage Society needs to be a non-profit to hold the raffle. Councilmember Riegel stated that she is still working on getting the Heritage Society to be a non-profit.

The Committee also discussed the guardrail extending the full length of Old New York Road to the wood line. The County is in agreement with this. On the other side, near Pitney Road, the County has said that they cannot do a guardrail there, but they could install a split rail fence to keep people from parking there. The City would need to do an Ordinance for no parking. The opening of the bridge should happen in June 2023. They are still working on drainage issues at both ends of the bridge. The raising of the grade will be about 6 inches, so we will most likely still have flooding issues when we get really bad storms. One of the big changes that the County made, is the approach of the bridge from Pitney Road.

They are proposing to leave it as it is now. When coming from Pitney Road, you would need to stop then turn right onto Riverside Drive, stop again, and turn left onto Old New York Road and the bridge. The Public Works Committee is not happy with this change. Council is concerned about this and the safety issues this may cause in the future. Council is in agreement to approach the County again to express their disapproval of the current plans they have for the Pitney Road approach side of the bridge. They would like the plan to be similar as to what the layout was before the bridge. Councilmember Allgeyer would like to see a light up stop sign at the intersection of Pitney Road and Riverside Drive.

Additionally, as part of the bridge project the County will be repaving Mill Street. They are looking to complete that project this Fall or Spring 2024.

Councilmember Turner mentioned that he would like to look into the lighting plans for the bridge. Council President Giberson stated that they will also ask the County about this.

Dam

Council President Giberson reported that they have a virtual meeting scheduled with the NJDEP on April 17th at 10 am. City Planner Jim Rutala is looking into sources of funding to get this project moving.

City Hall Septic System

Council President Giberson reported that two companies took a look at the job and will be submitting quotes. We are looking to get this approved at the next Council meeting and get the project started. Councilmember Turner questioned if the issue could be reported to our insurance company. Clerk Campellone stated she will reach out to the insurance company to see if the work can be completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- Mayor Giberson and Councilmember Bugdon attended the first LEAP Grant Meeting for Port Republic School. This is a study of the cost effectiveness of different options for the school (i.e., sending to Mullica Township, sending to Galloway Township, keeping the school open, etc.).
- In the school year 2024-2025 there will be a \$500,000 shortfall. We need to start thinking ahead and planning so people can still pay their taxes and live here.
- Councilmember Turner stated that he would like to see the City look into issuance of a liquor license. Mayor Giberson replied that there is a lot of work that needs to be done to do that. Council President Giberson added that this needs to be done by a petition, and anyone could work on that to get it on the ballot.
- On Saturday, April 22nd, the City will be hosting its first annual Earth Day Celebration at Harry Bowen Memorial Park. Many organizations such as The Green Team, Heritage Society, Port School PTS, Port Church, etc. will be participating.
- A Committee will be formed for the Smallwood/Longo Garden Project. If anyone is interested in working with that Committee they can contact her or Mike Trupkiewicz.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 04-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk