

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. MAY 9, 2023
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

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 16, 2023, SPECIAL 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 APRIL 11, 2023, 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 MAY 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 Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

There were two (2) State Troopers in attendance. It was reported that things have been quiet, and they have been coming around conducting property checks, especially of the park areas after dark.

Councilmember Bugdon thanked the Troopers for their work and support during the City-Wide Cleanup on Saturday, May 6th.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Giberson reported that all city employees are doing a great job as usual.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Bill Montag submitted the April 2023 Public Works Council Report, reading as follows:

- Continued tree trimming throughout town
- Started summer mowing schedule
- Installed turtle crossing signs
- Rebuilding and revitalizing embankments around Nacote Creek
- Raised and lowered sluice gates at the dam due to weekend rain event (April 28-30)

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that our Public Works Department lost a lawn mower. It caught fire and the fire department was dispatched and handled the situation. Additionally, the work on city hall septic system will begin on June 5th.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that two (2) beach badge attendants have been hired. She believes they will be good with lifeguards as well. They will be meeting with the staff members on Thursday, May 11th.

Councilmember Bugdon requested to know the timeframe for the ADA Beach Access Project, more specifically when the mats and wheelchair will be delivered. Clerk Campellone responded that she has reached out to City Engineer Doran and is awaiting a response from his office.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that there have been a few fire and smoke alarm calls. They also responded to a fire in the woods in Lower Bank. The Fire Department's next Roast Beef Dinner will be Saturday, May 20th. Councilmember Riegel questioned if the dinner will be take out only yes it is take out only.

Planning Board:

No report

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of April. During the month, a total of 21 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 7 Alteration
- 0 Demo
- 0 New
- 0 Addition
- 4 Zoning Permits
- 1 CO Inspections for Resale
- *Total of 12*

There are no current code enforcement issues.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Winneberger put together a letter for the next newsletter explaining a program they are working on. There will be forms for seniors and those with disabilities to complete and file with City Hall. This will allow for a record to be kept and utilized if an emergency ever occurs and we need to assist those members of our community.

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel expressed her concern of the draft RFP presented regarding the Old City Garage Project. She is concerned that with the intent of the building as it is currently listed, it will be priced way too high. She suggested that the intent could be changed to a climate-controlled storage facility to store and protect the City's historical documents and artifacts. We could then use the CDBG funds to create the senior center, meeting area, etc. She is concerned with all that up front the price will come in too high.

Council President Giberson responded that this RFP is more so being used to figure out what it will cost to get us to the end point. He feels we need to put this RFP out to the public and see what kind of response we get.

Councilmember Riegel reinstated her concern, not to have it for human habitation, if we don't do that it is going to come in way too expensive then city council will not go for it, and I just wasted 12 years working on this project.

Council President Giberson stated this will be done in phases the first phase is to see if it is structurally sound then it will move to phase 2. We need City Engineer Matt Doran to start the process. The city must move on with other projects that need to be done.

Land Use:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, spoke to Mayor and Council about the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon that is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. They have close to 200 people registered to participate and are expecting nearly 300. Councilmember Bugdon suggested that the boat ramp be closed on Friday, June 2nd with a chain. She feels if they use caution tape it will just be ripped or cut by someone. Mayor Giberson thanked Mr. Smallwood for all the work he does pertaining to the triathlon.

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter dated April 14, 2023, from City Engineer Deborah Wahl Final Payment ARAWAK Wilson Avenue
Acknowledged

NJDOT Fiscal 2024 State Aid Program (*deadline is July 1st*)
Public Works Director Bill Montag will be meeting and discussing with City Engineer Matt Doran

Letter to Mayor Niki Giberson and City Council from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson Regarding the Jersey Genesis Triathlon
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

56-2023 Resolution Establishing Depositories Funds – 2023
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

57-2023 Resolution Supporting RevolutionNJ
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

58-2023 A Resolution in Support of Including Casinos as Workplaces Covered Under the New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act

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

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

59-2023 Work Change Order #1 – FINAL – NJDOT Municipal Aid FY2021
Reconstruction of Wilson Avenue (*decreased by \$10,826.57*)

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

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

60-2023 Authorizing Advertisement of Request for Proposals for
Architectural/Consulting Engineering Services (*old City Garage Project*)

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

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – 1st READING/INTRODUCTION:

05-2023 Adopting Official Map of the City of Port Republic

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

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

NO:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Route 610 Bridge

Council President Giberson reported that a meeting was held with the County regarding reconfiguring the way Pitney Road will now end at the bridge. The County stated that they could not have the off-ramp of the bridge going towards Pitney Road because the angle coming up Pitney Road was greater than 20 degrees. Through the process, the interchanges were supposed to stay the same. He does not know when it changed. The County did conduct a study for the interchanges to ensure that large trucks, such as fire trucks and trash trucks, will be able to make the turns. The County has stated that they will not be putting guardrails up. They will be planting grass in the area by the intersection of Pitney Road and Riverside Drive. Council President Giberson stated that this may be something that the city takes on, such as a split-rail fence.

We are looking for the bridge to open mid-late June.

Dam I-BANK

Council President Giberson reported that a meeting was held with representatives from the NJDEP. The city is seeking funding for the engineering study that we need to have done that is going to cost over \$100,000.00. The State is only offering us low-interest loans which we can do ourselves. Mr. Rutala was going to be contacting the I-Bank in hopes that there should be some funds available.

Councilmember Allgeyer questioned the issue with lowering and raising the gates of the dam during storms. Council President Giberson stated it is very important that our Public Works Department be the only ones to lower and raise the gates.

City Hall Septic System

Work is scheduled to begin on June 5th.

Letter from City Solicitor William Kaufmann to City Planner Jim Rutala Regarding Block 24, Lot 34 Redevelopment

Attorney Kaufmann explained he wrote a letter to City Planner Jim Rutala on behalf of City Council regarding the need to move forward with the redevelopment of Block 24, Lot 34. In his letter he directed Mr. Rutala to begin the plan with the community solar project as the primary plan but is adaptable enough to accept other ideas if Council chooses. The city will eventually be presented with a redevelopment agreement to enter into with the idea they see fit.

The accepting of dredging spoils can be done now and does not need to be part of the redevelopment plan. Councilmember Riegel questioned where we are at with the acceptance of dredging spoils. Council President Giberson responded that City Engineer Doran is working on that RFP.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jersey Genesis Triathlon – Saturday, June 3, 2023

Received Local Recreation Grant (Tennis & Basketball Courts) \$70,000.00

City Engineer Doran will start working on the next steps to redo the area of the tennis and basketball courts.

Open Space Funds

Attorney Kaufmann explained that the City currently has approximately \$220,000.00 in our open space fund. He reviewed the original resolution authorizing the referendum and the state statute. In the statute it proclaims that the funds received can be allocated for acquisition, development, maintenance, and debt service. You have the option of allocating a certain percentage to each of those subcategories. However, we did not. Our basketball and tennis courts are considered as part of the City's open space. Therefore, we can allocate all or a portion of the funds we currently have for maintenance. We will need to have a public hearing on allocating funds towards the repair of the basketball and tennis courts. Councilmember Turner thanked Clerk Campellone for finding these funds.

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- April 22nd, we celebrated Earth Day. All the entities in Port Republic were involved, except the Fire Company. If they would like to be involved next year, they can. It was a very successful event.
- We recently received a letter from the DEP regarding our well monitoring at the old landfill. They state that they cannot allow us to not test the wells at all, however they are going to get a tentative permit where we can check the wells less often and for fewer things. Once that is done, there will be a 30-day comment period and then a permanent permit can be issued. This should save the city thousands of dollars.
- Two weeks ago, she attended a meeting with the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County. Hamilton and Northfield are trying to leave but will most likely not be allowed to. The central court is in financial trouble, but we have explained to them that if we as a city are not saving money, then we cannot stay with them.
- She thanked the Trupkiewicz family for working on the Longo/Smallwood Garden along with the Green Team. It is moving slowly but well.
- She recognized and dedicated this year's book to Council President Giberson for his 25-years of service to the City of Port Republic.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, questioned if open space funds could be used for the redirection of the drainage pipe by Port Beach. Clerk Campellone responded that COVID grant money is being used to pay for that job and it is not being paid by taxpayer money.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 05-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk