

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 P.M. JUNE 13, 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:** Thomas R. Churchelow, 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 MAY 9, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO: Riegel, Nass

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN

*Councilmember Riegel stated that she was voting no because she had changes and additions she wanted made to the minutes. Council President Giberson explained that the minutes are to be a reasonable comprehensive document and are not transcriptions. Councilmember Riegel responded that she understood but felt something had been omitted. Council President Giberson asked that if this happens again, she reaches out to himself or Mayor Giberson.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2023 BILL LIST:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Bugdon (PO #'s 23-00252 & 23-00256)

**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: Bugdon (PO #'s 23-00252 & 23-00256)

**Eagle Scout Presentation for Eagle Scout Jonathan Nass**

Councilmember Bugdon presented Jonathan Nass with a gift and congratulated him on receiving the Eagle Scout honor. On behalf of the Mayor and City Council she congratulated him on his achievement.

Jonathan thanked the Mayor and City Council for all their support with Troop 21 in all of their endeavors.

Council President Giberson thanked Councilmember Nass along with Councilmember Turner for all of their hard work working with the Boy Scouts. There are now 11 Eagle Scouts from this troop.

City Engineer Matthew Doran gave a presentation regarding the Tennis and Basketball Courts. They started the cost estimate with the assumption that they would be removing everything out there, including fences and starting over with a new subbase, new fences, etc. That cost would be \$330,000.00. Some of the fencing can be saved if it needs to be. The required ADA parking could be handled by the CDGB grant funds separately. We could also probably save on the demolition. The City could save if we do not do a total redo. There will be one tennis court, 4 pickle ball courts, and one basketball court. Engineer Doran will write up a new cost estimate for keeping the fence and will reach out to Nikolaus regarding the surface material.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Police/Emergency Management:**

There was one State Trooper in attendance.

Public Safety Director Scott Winneberger gave his report for Emergency Management. He has been working with the NJSP Office of Emergency Management with public assistance. They reached out to us to help us prepare all our forms and portals for public assistance should the City be struck with an emergency. This helps our ability to receive funding. It is a significant punch list to get done. He mentioned that he and the Mayor met with Station Commander Steet of the NJSP to discuss roles within the City, specifically his role as the Public Safety Director and the need for open lines of communication. Scott gave them a list of issues within the City, including trespassing at the old City landfill, kids jumping from the bulkhead, speeding complaints, etc. There is a public safety meeting scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Bugdon asked Scott if he has received any response from the form that was in the newsletter for seniors. Scott responded that he has not.

**Administrative/Personnel:**

Council President Giberson reported that everything is running smoothly, and Council received the reports from the Tax Collector, CFO and Municipal Clerk.

**Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer read Public Works Director Bill Montag's May 2023 Public Works Council Report, reading as follows:

- Cutting and maintaining Park, City Hall, Baseball Field, Monument, & Old Dump
- Roadside cutting and maintenance.
- Working with Engineer on drainage issues on Holly Creek
- ADA Beach project still in progress
- City Hall sewer project - removed drywall in the bathroom so the contractor has access to the top and bottom of the wall. Excavated a 48' trench for a new 4" septic drain into the tank.
- Prep work for triathlon

Councilmember Turner questioned if the part-time employee from DPW went to full-time. Council President Giberson stated no. He is only 32 hours weekly for the summer.

**Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported we had a great opening for the summer season and collected over \$3,000.00 from the sale of beach badges. Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Labor Day weekend, the 2 beach badge attendants worked along with the 2 lifeguards. The guards and attendants are doing a great job and she is very happy with them. She thinks we will have a very nice and successful summer. Councilmember Turner questioned if the new beach access is being utilized and it was reported that yes, it is.

Councilmember Turner reported that the banners are ready to be picked up and they will be up for Port Day! They are still for sale if anyone would like to purchase them for the field. He additionally received pricing for outfield grass fertilizer replenishment and adding material to the outfield. He has been in contact with one of the coaches that utilizes the field, and they would like to put some money towards the projects going on with the baseball field. Councilmember Riegel questioned how much was made selling the banners. Councilmember Turner responded that we have taken in approximately \$4,000.00.

Councilmember Allgeyer thanked the Fire Department for doing the repairs to the dugout roof.

Councilmember Hawn reported that for Community Day the Fire Department has six food vendors lined up. Mayor Giberson reported that there will be a face painter, free pony rides being sponsored by Doran Engineering and Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein, pie eating contest and a cornhole tournament. Poor Mouth Henry will be performing from 4:30 pm until 8:30 pm. The parade will start at 4:00 pm and there will be lots of kids on bikes. Fireworks will go off around 9:00 pm. Four to Six picnic tables will be set up in the pavilion for people to eat.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported a slow month for the Fire Department. The dinner in May was a huge success, their best one yet!

**Planning Board:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met to discuss the adoption of the Official City Map. The Planning/Zoning Board recommended that City Council adopt the Official City Map.

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

No report

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon would like to do a public mailing for the senior sign up for Emergency Management purposes. Several requests for equipment have been received.

**Heritage Society:**

Council President Giberson reported that the RFP for the Old Garage is out. The proposals are due to the City Clerk's Office on July 6, 2023, by 11:00 am.

**Land Use:**

No report

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND:**

Council President Giberson started the following discussion regarding the amount needed to rehab and repair the tennis/basketball courts from the Open Space Trust Fund Account. The account should not be completely depleted. According to the City Solicitor, there is \$259,809.00 in the Open Space Trust Account. The City Council must decide how much they want to allocate towards the maintenance of the courts.

Chief Financial Officer Jenna Kelly mentioned that there is an additional \$24,500.00 in the account, making the total amount \$284,309.00. Utilizing 90% of the total would give the City a budget of \$255,870.00 for the repair/rehab of the courts.

Council President Giberson questioned if after the money is transferred from the Open Space Trust Account to the General Account would the unused amount be transferred back to the Open Space Trust Account. The City Solicitor will investigate this question.

*Council President Giberson read the following, "As required by Statute, now is the time and place that has been advertised for a public hearing on the issue of the amount on deposit in the Open Space Trust Fund to be allocated on a one-time basis to repair and maintenance of the basketball and tennis courts. Any person desiring to be heard on this issue should step forward to be heard."*

**OPEN TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC PORTION REGARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND:**

On the motion of Councilmember Nass, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to open public portion.

Hearing nothing from the public regarding the Open Space Trust Fund

**CLOSE TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC PORTION**

On the motion of Councilmember Nass, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to close public portion.

*Motion to adopt Resolution 66-2023, to allocate from the City's Open Space Trust Fund \$255,870.00, on a one-time basis, for repair/maintenance of the City's basketball and tennis courts with the balance of the Fund being reserved for acquisition and development of additional open space, should the opportunity arise.*

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Management Letter Regarding Audit 2022

*Council President mentioned there was one minor infraction. Everything else was good. The employees are doing an excellent job.*

Sustainable Jersey Grant in the Amount of \$2,000.00 was Awarded to Port Republic Mayor Giberson mentioned that they are doing community building. Artist Kathy Johnson will be helping the children with a mural on one wall of the concession stand.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

61-2023 Resolution of the City of Port Republic, Atlantic County State of New Jersey Supporting Senate Bill S3063 Establishing "ATV Law Enforcement Task Force"

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

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

NO: Turner

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

62-2023 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

63-2023 Resolution providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:4-87 9 Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Clean Communities

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner  
NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

64-2023 Appointment of Seasonal Public Works Laborer in the Department of Public Works (Joseph Mason)

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner  
NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

65-2023 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Adams Avenue

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner  
NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCE – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Nass and carried to open for public hearing.

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

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

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Riegel, Turner  
NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Review of Draft Redevelopment Plan  
*Council President Giberson advised City Council to look over the Redevelopment Plan this month and be prepared to decide at the July 11<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. Councilmember Riegel voiced her concerns regarding the plan as presented. It mentions community solar several times and she does not think it has been demonstrated to Council that it would be the highest and best use for the property. It also has community solar listed as the primary use, and she doesn't know if that is what they want for the primary use. She thinks other language*

*should be included in the plan stating “including, but not limited to solar” to allow for other uses they have previously spoke about. Councilmember Bugdon responded that the plan does state that Council can deal with other uses for the property. It was explained that the Redevelopment Plan can be changed/amended at any point by a vote of the City Council.*

- **Cost Estimate for Tennis/Basketball Courts**  
*City Engineer Matt Doran is working on an amended cost estimate.*
- **Route 610 Bridge**  
*Mayor Giberson spoke with County Engineer Doug DiMeo regarding the bridge. The County is working on permits through NJDEP. We received correspondence today (June 13<sup>th</sup>) stating that the bridge will open late fall. The intersection at Riverside Drive and Mill Street is in bad condition. Mayor Giberson will write a letter to have this taken care of. The Mayor wrote a letter to Atlantic City Electric to place something on the wires after a swan flew into the wires and landed on the bridge. Council President Giberson suggested that we, along with the residents, reach out to County Executive Dennis Levinson, the Commissioners, Senators, etc. to push the DEP to issue the permit.*
- **Dam I Bank**  
*Mayor Giberson attended a zoom meeting regarding the I Bank. They have never given a municipality a loan for a dam. She did not feel that we really made any headway.*
- **City Hall Septic System**  
*There have been issues with the septic system. The plumbing contractor came out and did preliminary work. The injection pump is not working properly and the system is not draining properly. At this time, we will not be removing the toilets. Pipe is in place if it needs to be done in the future. For now, an alarm light is going to be installed. Councilmember Riegel questioned who the company was that determined the problem. The company was Highland Mechanical.*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Community Day - June 17, 2023/Rain Date June 24, 2023

### **MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- *The City will be sponsoring the Duct Boat Regatta on September 10, 2023. Councilmember Turner mentioned that he and resident Valerie Kozlowski have a lot of extra cardboard if anyone would need some. Mannis is donating the use of their dumpster for the day.*
- *Waiting on NJDEP for an answer on the well monitoring at the old landfill on Cologne-Port Road. This is in regard to the \$7,000.00 bill the City pays annually.*

- *Thanked the Fire Department for fixing the dugout roof.*
- *On July 17<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department will be having an active shooter drill at the Port School. The NJSP, the EMT's and Galloway Police were invited.*
- *Working on the LEAP grant for the school. They met with the Stockton faculty who are working on the Leap Grant. Nothing is factual, they are just getting numbers. There are five options: send to Mullica School, send to Galloway Schools, have a regional school, have a charter school or keep the school open. There is not a big savings with sending the kids to another school district. The state grant was \$60,000.00 and this was to perform the study. Council President questioned where the report goes. The report will be presented to the School Board.*

*Councilmember Turner questioned if during the fireworks anyone would be allowed to utilize the bridge to watch fireworks. Scott Winneberger stated that no, the bridge is closed and the NJSP will be patrolling the bridge.*

*Councilmember Bugdon reported that resident John Bonthron will be patrolling Nacote Creek during the evening hours of Community Day making sure no boaters come into Nacote Creek.*

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Mike Trupkiewics, 58 Pomona Avenue, stated that he and 5 to 6 people are starting to play softball at 8:30 am on Sundays at the Port Republic Ballfield. He questioned when the dirt is going to be placed at the ballfield. Councilmember Turner stated that there is no timeline for the dirt to be delivered and he has just received a price.

Mr. Trupkiewics questioned if the sale of beach badges cover the seasonal employees. The sale of badges does not completely cover the cost. This year, so far, the City brought in \$3,689.00. The City must provide lifeguards for the beach as it is a liability if we do not.

John Yochim, Chestnut Neck Road, asked who is responsible for fixing the school and who is going to take care of the school if it were to close. The Mayor responded that the City will be responsible for everything involving the school.

Resident Amy Nass commended City Council for working on fixing the tennis and basketball courts.

Billy Smallwood thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing the Jersey Genesis Triathlon. Everything went well. DPW did a great job, along with the Boy Scouts. The Sand Sharks and the Outlaws all made donations and helped with the race, along with the baseball team from Four Seasons. They had a great turnout and there were about 300 participants. The race was cleaned up by 11:45 am. Billy thanked his family for all their help. The church served hot dogs.



Bob Haviland of Upper Pomona Avenue commented that there is a large pothole opening up near the stop sign. He mentioned that Upper Pomona Avenue should be on the list for repaving.

Joe Martin, Mill Street, questioned tracking residents for the POET system and questioned if the City Clerk is still tracking who is getting the POET System in their homes. He was informed that the Clerk's Office is keeping track. Joe would like a notice sent out regarding water testing and the POET system. The City Clerk will place something in the next newsletter.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 06-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC  
Municipal Clerk