

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 P.M. JULY 11, 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 Bugdon and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Donna Riegel, Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Steven Allgeyer, Jacob Nass

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

**DEPUTY CITY CLERK:** Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

**ATTORNEY:** absent

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 JUNE 13, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass

ABSTAIN

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

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

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

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

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass

ABSTAIN:

Councilmember Riegel requested that the bill list include the line items that the purchases are being made from. Deputy Clerk Blevin responded that she would look into it.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Police/Emergency Management:**

There was one State Trooper in attendance.

Mayor Giberson read Safety Director Scott Winneberger's report, in which he reported that he received a complaint about boaters and jet skiers violating the no wake zones on Nacote Creek. He contacted the Marine Police and made them aware of the complaint. They advised him that they would do some extra patrols up the creek for the City. He also advised Lt. Steet from the Tuckerton Barracks of the complaint.

### **Administrative/Personnel:**

Council President Giberson reported that Council received the reports from the Tax Collector, CFO and Municipal Clerk. He also reported that everything has been running smoothly and all City Employees are doing a good job.

### **Public Works:**

Council President Giberson read Public Works Director Bill Montag's June 2023 Public Works Council Report, reading as follows:

- Cutting and maintaining Park, City Hall, Baseball Field, Monument, & Old Dump
- Roadside cutting and maintenance
- Port Day operation, set-up, and breakdown
- Daily maintenance on the beach (trash and dragging)
- Pruned trees around Chestnut Neck Monument
- ADA beach project completed, we had Maxwell add another utility gate on the west side of the beach for maintenance and emergency vehicles

### **Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that Community Day held on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, was wonderful and a tremendous success.

Regarding the beach, she reported that we are having a difficult time with staffing of lifeguards. This is an ongoing issue that she is continuing to work on. Atlantic County conducted their annual inspection of the beach and we passed. There is additional signage that they require to be posted and Public Works Director Bill Montag is working on that request.

Council President Giberson thanked Councilmember Bugdon, Mayor Giberson and all others that were involved in planning such a great Community Day. He congratulated everyone on a successful event.

### **Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported a slow month for the Fire Department. There is an Active Shooter Drill coming up on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Yochim added that they started getting some of the new gear they ordered about 5 months ago.

**Planning Board:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that there was no July meeting. There will be no meeting in August as the attorney is on vacation. She believes there is something pending for September.

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the months of May and June. During the month of May, a total of 20 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 8 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 1 New
- 0 Additions
- 4 Zoning Permits
- 1 CO Inspections for Resale
- *Total of 14*

There are no current code enforcement issues.

During the month of June, a total of 19 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 5 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 3 Zoning Permits
- 2 CO Inspections for Resale
- *Total of 10*

There are no current code enforcement issues.

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has had no requests so far this month. She needs donations for rollators.

**Heritage Society:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that they had a great June meeting. October 1<sup>st</sup> will be the 1-year anniversary of the Heritage Society and on that day they will be dedicating the jersey sandstone monument to Genevieve French Bennet. Afterwards they will be hosting an Open House at City Hall, and everyone is invited to attend.

**Land Use:**

Council President Giberson reported that we are waiting on City Engineer Matt Doran for the draft RFP for the acceptance of dredging material at the old gravel mine site. Engineer Doran provided Council with information on clean fill and requested that they review it and determine if they wish to accept that as well. Council agreed that they do not wish to accept clean fill and would like to continue the RFP process with only accepting dredging spoils. City Engineer Matt Doran will try to have it ready for the next City Council meeting.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Mike Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, questioned the status of some of the blighted homes in the area.

Ray Lewis, 52 Clarks Landing Road, expressed his concern for quads, small motorcycles, golf carts, etc. riding around town. He does not want to see anyone get hurt. Council President Giberson responded that it is a major problem in not only Port Republic, but other municipalities around the State. We recently passed a resolution supporting the formation of a task force to go around and deal with these issues. He asked the Trooper in attendance to please take note of this problem and keep an eye out for it in town.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter from Atlantic County Prosecutor William E. Reynolds, Esquire – requesting to have an opportunity to make a presentation sometime in the Fall  
*City Council is happy to have him attend and present at a meeting in the Fall*

Letter from Deborah Wahl, Doran Engineering – recommending payment #2 to R. Maxwell Construction Co. for 2021 CDBG ADA Parking Improvements & Beach Mats  
*Acknowledged*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

67-2023 Resolution Authorizing Payment of School Tax Levy to Port Republic School  
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried.  
YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner  
NO:  
ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass  
ABSTAIN:

68-2023 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 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Sustainable Jersey Grant (\$2,000.00)  
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried.  
YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Turner  
NO:  
ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass  
ABSTAIN:

69-2023 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 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Local Improvement Recreation Grant (\$70,000.00)  
On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried.  
YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner  
NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass  
ABSTAIN:

70-2023 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 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Stormwater Maintenance Grant (\$15,000.00)

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

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass

ABSTAIN:

71-2023 Work Change Order #1 – FINAL – FY 2021 CDBG ADA Improvements at Port Republic Beach

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

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Nass

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES:**

*none*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Received Two (2) Request for Proposals for the Old Garage One from On-Board Engineering Corporation for \$67,800.00 and the other from Settembrino Architects for \$210,000.00

*A memo from the city's CFO stating that there is a lack of funding available, and her recommendation is to not move forward.*

*Discussion ensued amongst City Council regarding whether they would like to move forward with awarding the RFP. Council President Giberson requested each City Councilmember present to express their opinion on the matter:*

- *Council President Giberson stated City Hall is a great option for the Heritage Society to utilize it will always be here council will come and go, he also mentioned that since the city no longer has the court an office has opened for the Heritage Society along with more room to customize cabinets to store the history artifacts.*
- *Councilmember Hawn stated that he does not believe it is necessary considering the expense and the amount of people who will utilize the building.*
- *Councilmember Turner stated that he believes there are better options for a building.*
- *Councilmember Bugdon stated that the city does not have the money for such a venture.*
- *Councilmember Riegel stated that she believes it will be an asset to the community for the school children. It will be living history you will have the whole community that can have events, programs etc... Councilmember Riegel stated that the whole reason the Heritage Society was formed was for this building.*

*Since the City Attorney was not present at the meeting, no action was taken, and the proposals will be finalized at our next City Council Meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>.*

- Review of Draft Redevelopment Plan  
*We are awaiting a revised Draft Redevelopment Plan from City Planner Jim Rutala.*
- Received New Cost Estimate for the Tennis/Basketball Courts - \$263,370.80  
*The funding is now available, and a meeting will be set up with the Public Works Committee and Engineer Doran to determine when a good time is to start the job and the bidding process.*
- Route 610 Bridge – correspondence from County Engineer Doug DiMeo regarding amending the term only of the agreement for paving of a portion of Mill Street  
*Mayor Giberson explained that the County is requesting she sign an agreement changing the paving of Mill Street to September of 2024. She does not want to sign the agreement as is, as she does not believe the intersection of Riverside Drive & Mill Street can survive another Winter. City Council agrees with Mayor Giberson not signing the agreement as presented and advocating for the intersection of Riverside Drive and Mill Street be taken care of before Winter. The City will be requesting County Engineer DiMeo or another County representative to attend our next City Council Meeting to give an update on the bridge.*
- Dam I Bank  
*No update. The I Bank does not provide funding, so we will need to come up with another idea for the dam project.*
- City Hall Septic System  
*Council President Giberson explained that we are waiting on a new pump which will be installed. The flow switch has been fixed and they put on the alarm. We should have the new pump within the next month.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Active Shooter Drill Scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at Port Republic School  
*Chief Yochim explained that this is more of a recovery drill than an active shooter drill as they would never enter a premises until the shooter has been stopped. The Fire Department will be working with State Police, Galloway Township Police and Galloway Township Ambulance Squad for this drill.*
- Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County  
*Mayor Giberson stated that there are three (3) municipalities that are pulling out of the Central Municipal Court System. Ventnor will be going to Brigantine and Northfield and Hamilton will be going to Hammonton. The County is aware that they need to cut the budget back and are making budgetary decisions accordingly. We will be staying with the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County, as long as they do not raise our price.*
- Spotted Lanternfly Grant Program for Counties and Municipalities (*reimbursement grant*)  
*Mayor Giberson stated that we are applying for this grant to obtain funding if and when we need it.*

Councilmember Turner requested that the State Police do more patrolling on the Port Republic side of the Route 9 Bridge. The Trooper in attendance said he will report this back to the Station Commander.

Councilmember Turner discussed the situation with the baseball field. He stated that one of the baseball teams who utilizes the field used their money to purchase infield mix. The Public Works Department will be using the City dump truck to pick up the material. He explained that when the infield had been regraded, we did not bring new material onto the field. In the process of rototilling it, it brought up existing stones that were already there. He wants everyone to understand that we did not bring bad material in, it was an existing issue. Banners are still being sold if anyone is interested in purchasing one.

**MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS.**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- The foreclosure company that the City has been using has gone bankrupt. The ACIA will be handling the issue.
- The NJDEP has expedited the permit for the old landfill and has handed it off to The Pinelands Commission. She will continue to follow up with them for updates.
- She attended a meeting via Zoom with the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. She is sure that Port Republic should not have cannabis.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Chief John Yochim, Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company, stated that he spoke with someone and that the bridge should be paved within 3-4 weeks. Council President Giberson responded that we will be doing everything we can to push them along. Councilmember Riegel requested that there be police presence once the bridge opens. Mayor Giberson stated that there will be no ribbon cutting ceremony for the bridge once it is complete.

Mike Trupkiewicz, 58 Pomona Avenue, said he is still confused on how the baseball field area works. He knows that Bill Smallwood is the head of PRAF (Port Republic Athletic Fund), but Councilmember Turner is doing stuff with the field. Mayor Giberson explained that Councilmember Turner is on the Recreation Committee along with Councilmember Bugdon and Councilmember Hawn. Mr. Trupkiewicz questioned if we are missing out on possible parks and recreation funding. Mayor Giberson responded that we have made out very well with Mr. Smallwood and the PRAF Organization. Councilmember Bugdon responded that without PRAF we wouldn't have what we have. Mayor Giberson additionally stated that we recently received \$70,000.00 from a recreation grant. Mr. Trupkiewicz expressed his appreciation to Councilmember Turner and the Recreation Committee for the work they have been putting into the baseball field.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 07-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC  
Municipal Clerk