

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. AUGUST 8, 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, Donna Riegel, Michael Turner (via telephone)

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Jacob Nass

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly 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 JULY 11, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

YES: Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Nass

ABSTAIN: Allgeyer

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 2023 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner 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:

Atlantic County Engineer Doug DiMeo and Atlantic County Principal Planner Ranae Fehr updated Mayor, Council and the public on the status of the construction of the Route 610 Bridge. They are working on reconfiguring the southside intersection. They are anticipating being able to get final paving done in about a month. The final paving will include the small portion at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Mill Street. About a week later there will be guardrail work being done and about a month thereafter they will work on the final restoration. They are aiming to have all the work completed by the end of October. The bridge will be able to open upon substantial completion. We can expect the opening before Christmas.

Councilmember Riegel commended the contractor, South State, on their work with the bridge.

Mayor Giberson thanked the County Officials for attending and for agreeing to complete the work on Riverside Drive and Mill Street before winter. Ranae Fehr added that the remaining work on Mill Street should be completed by Spring 2024.

Councilmember Riegel asked the County Officials if they would go over the new traffic pattern at the southside of the bridge. Ranae Fehr explained that the ramp that was previously there to take you onto Pitney Road is being eliminated. Now, if you are coming from Pitney Road, you will need to stop, turn right onto Riverside Drive, stop, and then make a left onto Old New York to approach the bridge.

Councilmember Bugdon questioned if surveys were done to figure out how many cars travel down Old New York Road compared to Pitney Road. She wanted to know why they came up with the new configuration. Doug DiMeo explained that it was a combination of traffic flow and serious accidents in the past.

Councilmember Hawn questioned if the roadway coming from Old New York Road to Pitney Road would be wider than before. Doug DiMeo responded that it would be wider to accommodate turning radius for different types of vehicles.

Council President Giberson thanked Ranae Fehr and Doug DiMeo for attending and told them that they all look forward to being able to drive over the new bridge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

There were two (2) troopers in attendance. They did not have anything to report.

Mayor Giberson reported that there was a meeting at Port Republic School in which a trooper was in attendance. They went through the whole school to go over things that need to be changed and fixed in order to make the school safer.

Councilmember Turner asked if there was an update on the request for more of a presence of troopers in town. One of the troopers explained that they get weekly updates sent to them and he does remember an email going out requesting more patrols. They log their work and they have been patrolling more.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Giberson reported that Council received monthly reports from the Tax Collector, CFO and Municipal Clerk. He added that all the City employees are doing a great job as usual.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the septic at City Hall has been fixed.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she's had a difficult time with lifeguards at the beach. She is hopeful that next year will be better.

Councilmember Turner thanked Councilmember Bugdon for the work she is doing with the beach. He is seeing more people at our beach this year than ever before.

Councilmember Turner reported that he has received a couple more complaints about the baseball field and the stones that were brought up. He would like to work with the committee on getting that issue rectified.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that this month has been busier than last month. They conducted a successful Active Shooter Drill at the Port Republic School. There were four (4) State Troopers, Galloway Township Police, Egg Harbor City Police, Germania Fire Company, Oceanville Fire Company, Galloway EMTs and Paramedics in attendance. This is a good drill for the school, and this is the second one they have had now.

There were a couple bad accidents, including the one on Pomona Avenue and Mill Street. The intersection is dangerous, and people run the stop sign on a daily basis. Councilmember Hawn reminded the public to be mindful and careful when crossing the intersection. There was also a fatal accident that occurred on the parkway.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that there was no August meeting. She believes there is something pending for September.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of July. During the month, a total of 9 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

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

There is an ongoing code enforcement issue at 364 Clarks Landing Road.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has received two requests that she was unable to fulfill because she does not have anymore rollators. She asked Council if they would approve of the City purchasing rollators so she has them. City Council agreed.

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that they held their July meeting. They discussed their Open House which will either be on October 1st or October 2nd. They will also be holding a Holiday House Tour on December 1st or December 2nd. They will be confirming the dates at their next meeting. They remerchandised the display cases in the back in Council Chambers. Vicki Cantell installed the software that was given by Galloway Township. They started logging the inventory they have. They are anxious to get started on the old city garage project.

Land Use:

Council President Giberson reported that Engineer Doran is working on the RFP for the acceptance of dredging materials at the old gravel mine site. A meeting will be set up with the committee to address some questions that Engineer Doran has. Council President Giberson is hopeful that the RFP draft should be ready for review by the September 12, 2023, City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Riegel questioned if Engineer Doran is working on an RFP for the project or a lease document. Council President Giberson responded that he is working on the RFP.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Carmela Progranicy, 29 Clarks Landing Road, stated how wonderful the new handicap mats are at the beach. She questioned the fact that the handicap bathroom is set further away from the handicap parking pads which make it difficult to get through the gravel to it. Council President Giberson responded that they will look into this further.

Sharon Seyler, 104 Main Street, stated that since the accident on Pomona Avenue and Mill Street she has watched four cars run the stop sign. She would like Council to look into having the intersection become a 4-way stop. Council President Giberson responded that he believes this was looked into in the past, but he does not remember the outcome of it. He stated this is something that can be looked into again. Mrs. Seyler questioned if there has been an update on the vacant homes on Pomona Avenue and Blakes Lane. Council President Giberson responded that this has been an ongoing issue for a long time. Unfortunately, at this time there is no update.

Barbara Lang, 116 Main Street, suggested that City Council look into placing speed bumps within the community. She understands that we could not do this on county roadways but should be able to on our local roadways. Council President Giberson stated that this was looked into previously in front of the school. This is something that could be revisited. Mrs. Lang also questioned what the update is for the tennis courts. Council President Giberson responded that the City received a grant and the remainder of the project will be covered by Open Space funding. The courts will be demolished and installing new tennis courts, pickleball courts and basketball courts. Our City Engineer is currently working on plans and preparing to go out to bid.

Carmela Progranicy, 29 Clarks Landing Road, asked if any pickleball courts were being planned. Mayor Giberson responded that there will be four pickleball courts installed.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

To Municipal Clerk – Gypsy Moth has been detected in Port Republic at no cost to the City the Department of Agriculture will aerially spray. Form must be sent by August 25, 2023.
On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to authorize the Mayor to act as indicated.

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

Email from Bob McGuigan of the Atlantic County Improvement Authority regarding the Atlantic County Countywide Foreclosure Registry Update
Acknowledged

Letter from Statewide Insurance Denying Claim for Septic in City Hall
Acknowledged

Municipal Regulation of Beekeeping Activities is Prohibited
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

72-2023 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Extend the Third Quarter Grace Period

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner
NO:
ABSENT: Nass
ABSTAIN:

73-2023 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Sign Agreement for the Spotted Lantern Fly Grant

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Nass, Turner
NO:
ABSENT: Nass
ABSTAIN:

74-2023 Agreement with Atlantic County Regarding the Paving of Mill Street and Partial Paving of Riverside Drive

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner
NO:
ABSENT: Nass
ABSTAIN:

75-2023 Resolution – FY2021 CDBG ADA Improvements at Port Republic Beach Invoice #3 Final Which Including the Retainer in the Amount of \$9,541.20

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried.
YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Turner
NO:
ABSENT: Nass
ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Review of Proposals Received for the Old Garage
 - The proposals that were received came in too high and the City does not have the money to move forward with the project.
 - Once the Heritage Society receives their non-profit status, the City would like to sell or lease the old city garage. Attorney Kaufmann confirmed that the City could do either option.
 - If the property were leased to the Heritage Society they would have reporting requirements to the City of what the building is being used for, how many people are benefiting, etc.
 - If the property were sold to the Heritage Society, it would not have to be at market value and could be for nominal consideration.
 - The lease or sale of the property needs to be handled by Ordinance.
 - Councilmember Riegel asked if the lease agreement could bear responsibility on both the lessee and lessor. She is asking that the City would remain responsible for the electric bill and mowing of the grass. Attorney Kaufmann stated that as long as the Governing Body agrees, that can be done.
 - Clerk Campellone will contact the City's insurance company to see what would be required of the Heritage Society when leasing the building. Council will then decide on how to move forward and how the agreement will be structured.
 - Once a decision is made, Attorney Kaufmann will draft an Ordinance for Mayor and Council's review.

- Review of Draft Redevelopment Plan – *revised version received*
 - With Council working on the RFP for the acceptance of dredging spoils, there is no need to move forward with the redevelopment at this time.

- Tennis/Basketball Courts Project
 - The project is moving forward and is being covered by grant monies received and Open Space Trust Fund monies.
 - Councilmember Hawn questioned if Engineer Doran had responded regarding the paving of the gravel portion by the courts. Council President Giberson responded that the surveyors came out recently for this.
 - Council President Giberson explained that we have had a lot of issues with people coming and tearing up the gravel parking area with their cars. They are looking to have the gravel portion paved as part of this project.
 - Councilmember Bugdon feels the issue in the gravel parking area could be solved with working cameras and being able to give license plate information to the State Police to handle. A trooper in attendance confirmed that having camera information would help. He added that he does patrol this area at night and when he was sitting there once a truck was just backing in and out and it caused a lot of debris to go into the roadway.

ORDINANCES:

06-2023 *Redevelopment Ordinance* – Adopting a Redevelopment Plan for Block 24, Lot 34 (400 English Creek Avenue)

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to table Ordinance 06-2023.

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

NO:
ABSENT: Nass
ABSTAIN:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Application for Purchase of City-Owned Property – Block 5, Lot 3 (adjoining property owner)
 - Council directed Attorney Kaufmann to draft an Ordinance to sell this property.

- Smallwood/Longo Memorial Garden
 - Mayor Giberson reported that the project is moving along.
 - She will be meeting with a landscaper sometime next week to get some ideas.
 - If anyone would like to volunteer for this project, they can contact Mayor Giberson.
 - Councilmember Turner questioned if this was something we could have our Public Works Department weed. Mayor Giberson responded that it is not at this time but they are trying to work to get it to that point.

- Control Burn Application – *if interested in applying, location needed*
 - Councilmember Hawn will speak with the Fire Department and report back with a location.

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS.

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- On September 10th the City will be hosting the Duct Boat Regatta. The event will start at 11:30 am. If anyone is interested in building a boat and being part of the event, applications are available. Councilmember Bugdon has a lifeguard scheduled to work if needed.
- The NJDEP is working on drafting a modified permit at the old landfill location. This should allow us to test less and therefore save money. Council President Giberson stated that once this happens, we need to look into closing it.
- Fall Fest will be happening on Saturday, October 21st. There will be a Halloween parade, outdoor movie, etc. If anyone would like to help with this event, they should contact Mayor Giberson.
- Another Port Newsletter will be coming out in the beginning of September.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Carmela Progranicy, 29 Clarks Landing Road, questioned if the controlled burn is handled by the State Forest Fire Service. Councilmember Hawn responded that it is handled by them. We put in an application to burn the brush pile, but it was denied. Clerk Campellone responded that we put in an application yearly for Open Space properties.

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 08-2023 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 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk