

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 12, 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, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

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 AUGUST 8, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2023, CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 2023 BILL LIST:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

OATH OF OFFICE

Jeffrey Ropiecki – Ward II – *filing of unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2023*
Oath of Office administered by Municipal Clerk Campellone

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Council President Giberson reported that the Committee held a meeting with the Public Safety Director, and everything is going well.

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that Public Safety Director Winneberger conducted a speed study on Mill Street. The average speed was 29 MPH. The New Jersey State Police have been notified. One of the solar speed signs has been relocated to Mill Street.

Councilmember Riegel stated that she has noticed pedestrian crossing signs in Galloway Township on both State and County owned roads. She questioned if this is something like that can be done here in town, at Mill Street/ Main Street and Mill Street/Pomona Avenue and even other locations. Council President Giberson stated this is something we can look into.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

Public Works:

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

- Cutting and maintaining Park, City Hall, Baseball Field, Monument, & Old Dump
- Roadside cutting and tree trimming
- Rebuilding boardwalk at the park nature walk (50% complete)
- Daily maintenance on the beach (trash and dragging)
- Trimmed trees and flower bed cleanup at the school
- Put away handicap mats and "de-summered" the beach

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that the 2023 beach season has come to an end. She will report how much money was collected in total for beach badges.

Councilmember Bugdon asked Mayor Giberson if she would like to speak about the Duct Tape Boat Regatta that took place on Sunday, September 10th. Mayor Giberson thanked Kim Campellone and Brandy Blevin for working the registration table. She thanked Valerie Kozlowski who worked amazingly to make this event happen again. She also thanked Councilmember Turner and Councilmember Hawn for stepping in where needed. Everyone had a great time. There ended up being 12 boats in total and 2 of those sank. We made about \$500 from this event between hot dog sales and registration fees. John Mannis donated the dumpster so the City did not have to pay to have anything cleaned up. Even in the rain everything turned out great.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that everything is running smoothly at the Fire House. They have a couple issues with the trucks that they are working on. It has been a quiet month, not much going on.

Chief Yochim added that their Roast Beef Dinner is coming up on October 21st.

Councilmember Bugdon stated that everyone should have received collection notices from the Fire Department and she hopes everyone is generous in donating.

Planning Board:

No report

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of August. During the month, a total of 10 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 3 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 1 New
- 0 Additions
- 2 Zoning Permits
- 0 CO Inspections for Resale
- *Total of 6*

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

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has not received any requests this month. She has received items back. She will deal with returning the items to the shed sometime next week since it has been so hot.

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Heritage Society finally received their non-profit designation and EIN. They are ready to proceed with purchasing the old city garage from the City.

They have two events coming up. The first will be on Sunday, October 1st from 2 pm until 4 pm at City Hall. A plaque will be dedicated to Genevieve French Bennett. The second event will be Holiday on Main Street. This will take place on Saturday, December 2nd from 2 pm to 6 pm. It will be their first holiday fundraiser. There will be a showing a Dicken's play in the pavilion, a tour of 3 historic properties, carolers strolling on Main Street and a historic cemetery walk. In addition, the Port Community Church will be hosting a bake sale. Letters will be sent out to residents on Main Street asking them to decorate their doors. Ticket holders will be able to judge their favorite doors. Tickets will be \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the old city garage.

Council President Giberson stated that since the last meeting they have discussed the options of the Heritage Society leasing the old garage versus buying it and it was determined that buying would be a better option. The City Attorney is working on this.

City Attorney Kaufmann explained the process of selling the old city garage to the Heritage Society. He will be drafting an ordinance to proceed.

Councilmember Allgeyer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon that if the Heritage Society was to disband the ownership of the old garage would revert back to the City.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

Land Use:

Council President Giberson reported that a draft RFP for the acceptance of dredge spoils at the old gravel mine site was distributed to Council for their review. Council reviewed and agreed they are ready to move forward with the RFP as presented. A resolution will be on the Agenda for the October 10th City Council Meeting which will authorize the City Clerk to advertise. The bid opening will be on November 8, 2023, at 10:00 am.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

John Yochim, resident, asked if a committee would be formed to oversee the dredging spoils that will be received. Council President Giberson responded that all work and reporting will be the responsibility of the contractor. A committee will oversee everything. Engineer Doran added that quarterly the contractor will provide an estimate of how much fill they have. They pay 75% of that estimated material. Every year they have to provide the City with a certified survey and a certified calculation of how much material is there. If needed, they will pay arrears if anything is owed after submitting the certified survey. Councilmember Riegel thought that they were going to be buying back the material as well. Council President Giberson responded that they chose not to do that because it would be very hard to monitor what was coming in and going out.

Tim Hendley, River Road, wrote a letter to the Mayor to find out about the City taking ownership of River Road. He would like the City to take responsibility of the road. He was unsure if Mayor and Council had a chance to discuss his inquiry. Council President Giberson stated that they were able to discuss the issue. The problem is that River Road has never been on the City map and has never officially been a City road. There are a few roads in town that fall into this category. Mr. Hendley expressed his concern that the residents that live on the road do not have the tools to maintain the roadway and at most it would take a half hour for the Public Works Department to do. Council President Giberson stated that the problem is once they start to maintain one, they'll have to take on responsibility of the others. He added if there is a serious enough weather event, the City would never leave anyone stranded. Attorney Kaufmann added that when people look at the tax map and think because a roadway is on that map, it is a municipal roadway. However, the tax map is not the same as the City's official map.

Joe Noll, 754 Old New York Road, stated that in his survey his property ends at the road. He questioned how much of the roadway he would be responsible for. Attorney Kaufmann stated that he cannot give him legal advice, but the owners who are adjacent to the roadway technically do own to the centerline of the road. Councilmember Turner shared that he had a similar situation, and that the roadway can be recognized as a municipal roadway, but it must be

done through the proper channels, which means it would have to be improved to proper standards. Resident Bob Haviland added that if all the property owners got together and had the roadway paved, they could possibly approach the City then to take it over. Attorney Kaufmann added that this is typically how subdivisions are handled by developers.

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, asked if a request could be made to the State Police to do some late-night monitoring of Fireman's Pond and the parking lot area. From around 10 pm until 2 am they are playing loud music and being loud with their vehicles. Council President Giberson responded that they have notified the State Police and they will do so again. Mayor Giberson added that they should also call the State Police when it happens. Council President Giberson stated that along with the Tennis/Basketball Court project we will be looking into upgrading and enhancing our surveillance cameras. Councilmember Bugdon added that they are just as frustrated with the situation. Councilmember Turner asked if with the new cameras, would we be placing signs around the area to let people know we would be issuing a summons for any damage incurred. Council responded that we would.

Barbara Lang, 116 Main Street, asked when Council expects the work on the tennis/basketball courts project to begin. City Engineer Doran responded that they are well into the design of the project, but now we are adding pipework and cameras to the project. He is hopeful we will have the bid documents to review by the November or December City Council meeting. Council President Giberson stated that the project should hopefully begin in Spring of 2024.

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:

Email from Resident Tim Hendley Regarding River Road
Acknowledged – discussed during Public Portion

Email from Jared and Deneen Gove Regarding Speeding Along Mill Street
A speed study was conducted, and a speed sign was placed on Mill Street

Email from Robe and Joann Champion Regarding Speeding Along Mill Street
A speed study was conducted, and a speed sign was placed on Mill Street

RESOLUTIONS:

77-2023 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Spotted Lanternfly Program – 2023 Chemical Control Treatment Grant

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

78-2023 Resolution to President Biden Opposing the Suggestion to Utilize the Atlantic City International Airport as a Shelter Space for Migrants

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

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

79-2023 Resolution Appointing William Montag as a Volunteer Firefighter for the City of Port Republic

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE – 1st READING:

07-2023 Authorizing Sale of Real Property Identified on the Tax Map of the City of Port Republic as Block 5, Lot 3, More Commonly Known as 838 Chestnut Neck Road, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Tennis/Basketball Courts Project – *City Engineer Doran is working on the bid for the project. They are hoping to have the project started in Spring 2024.*
- Route 610 Bridge – *the project is nearing completion. There is no ribbon cutting ceremony planned, it will just be opened one day.*
- Storm Drain – *This job will be included in the bid for the tennis/basketball courts project.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Change of November City Council Meeting Date (from Tuesday, November 14th to Tuesday, November 21st) – *acknowledged*
- Application for Purchase of City-Owned Property (Block 37, Lot 5) – *this property is Open Space and cannot be sold.*

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMATIONS.

01-2023 Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of September 2023 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

- We are starting a Community Cookbook. This book will highlight fruit recipes. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Mayor Giberson. The proceeds raised will help fund events in the Community.
- The Sea Cadettes came to the Duct Tape Boat Regatta and built their boat under the pavilion in the storm. Their boat didn't sink, and they won a couple of races. They were

so polite and pleasant. They were a great addition to the event and hopefully they will be back next year.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Paul Smisek, 111 Moss Mill Road, stated that it was his understanding that Block 37, Lot 5 was not Open Space as Green Acres but was a deed restricted property. Council President Giberson responded that it is on our Open Space inventory and will never be able to be sold. Attorney Kaufmann added that once a property is added to the inventory, the municipality can not convey away property that is on the Open Space inventory. To remove a property from the Open Space inventory is a very cumbersome process.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 09-2023 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 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk