

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 P.M. OCTOBER 10, 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Police/Emergency Management:**

Mayor Giberson reported that Public Safety Director Scott Winneberger met with the City's camera company, they are working on a plan to add more cameras. He is also arranging with the school a class for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with the Galloway Township Ambulance Squad for First Aid and CPR Certification. Mayor Giberson added that these classes will also be made available to Council and City Employees, as well as the public, if anyone is interested.

**Administrative/Personnel:**

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

**Public Works:**

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

- Cutting and maintaining Park, City Hall, Baseball Field, Monument, & Old Dump
- Roadside cutting and tree trimming
- Rebuilt boardwalk at the park nature walk
- Preventative Maintenance on winter equipment
- Joe Mason back to part-time (2 days a week) at the Transfer Station
- Working on 2024 Budget

Councilmember Allgeyer added that Matt Geese did the concrete work behind City Hall for no charge.

Council President Giberson added that they had a Public Works Committee Meeting at the City Garage. The Committee decided that any requests from the Mayor, City Council or City Employees goes through Bill Montag.

**Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that the amount collected for beach badges during the 2023 beach season was \$5,298.00. The Recreation Committee met before the Council Meeting and are going to be working on the fees for the beach badges.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that they are preparing for their next dinner on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Fire calls have been slow.

Chief Yochim reported that they had their hoses tested and there were several that they had to replace. Another company will be donating some hoses to them.

**Planning Board:**

No report

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of September. During the month, a total of 11 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

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

There is an ongoing code enforcement issue at 109 Main Street.

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has received some pieces of equipment back. She has also been given a couple of nice donations.

**Heritage Society:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that they had their first Heritage Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a great event, and many attended. They dedicated the plaque to Genieve French Bennett.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> they will be having their Holiday on Main event. They are looking for sponsors in their ad book currently. There will be a theatre troop doing a Dicken's play. Three historic homes will be open to visit. They will have carolers along Main Street. There will also be a historic cemetery walk.

**Land Use:**

Council President Giberson reported that listed on the agenda is a resolution to move forward with the bid for the acceptance of dredge material at the old gravel mining site.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Dean Duncan, 286 Old New York Road, stated that there is a large pothole on Old New York Road near Adams Avenue. He is questioning if there are any plans from the County to have that area redone. Council President Giberson responded that we can reach out to the County and see what their plans are, but we are unaware of any plans at this time.

Kelsey Busch, 24 Main Street, is the President of the Port Republic School PTS. She formally requested the use of City Hall for their PTS meetings. Their meetings are held on Mondays, every other month, from 6 pm until 7 pm. Mayor Giberson said that she would be able to open and close the building for them. Council granted permission for the PTS to use the building for their meetings.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

ACUA Increase 3.14% Effective November 1, 2023 – *Acknowledged*

Letter to City Council from Vicki Cantell Regarding Revolutionary Soldiers Tombstones –  
*Council grants permission*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

80-2023 Resolution Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Atlantic County  
Improvement Authority Regarding Abandoned Properties

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

81-2023 Authorizing Lease of Municipally Owned Property (Block 24, Lot 34, 400 English Creek Road)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

82-2023 Award of Contract to Arawak for Combined MA FY 2022 and MA FY 2023 Reconstruction of Mill Street from Main Street to Clarks Landing Road as well as Non-Participating Reconstruct Flowline of Holly Creek Drive

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

83-2023 Authorizing Release of Trust Funds to the Port Republic Heritage Society

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

**ORDINANCES: PUBLIC HEARING / ADOPTION:**

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 Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon and carried to open public portion.

Someone from the audience asked how big the property is. Municipal Clerk Campellone responded that it is .2 acres.

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCE – 1<sup>st</sup> READING / INTRODUCTION:**

08-2023 Authorizing the Sale of Real Property Identified on the Tax Map of the City of Port Republic as Block 20, Lot 22, Commonly Known as 102 Pomona Avenue, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-21(f)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- NJDES Permit Modification Request – Tentative Approval  
*Mayor Giberson reported that we need to fix one of the wells which has gone dry, however, our testing requirement will be going from quarterly to semi-annually. The plan is to eventually be able to go back to the State with proof that there are no issues and be able to request that the well monitoring be stopped all together. Council President Giberson stated that he does not believe we will ever be able to fully stop the monitoring of the well, but agreed this is a good start.*
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services with the City of Port Republic  
*Council is interested in doing this again in 2024.*
- Tennis/Basketball Courts Project  
*City Engineer Matt Doran is still working on this.*
- Route 610 Bridge  
*The bridge is now open. The gears are ready to be placed down there, but we are waiting on the contractor to obtain permission from the NJDEP to finish drainage work. Council President Giberson added that we should consider what we are doing there and make sure it will be maintained. Councilmember Riegel would like to request a police presence at the bridge now that it is open.*
- Storm Drain Project  
*City Engineer Matt Doran is still working on this. This will be included in the bid packet for the tennis/basketball courts project.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Fire Department Dinner – Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Fall Festival - Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
*There will be a costume parade, trunk-or-treat, hayrides, games, food, etc.*
- Halloween Hours (Trick or Treat) October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm
- NJDOT Route 167  
*We are waiting on Engineer Matt Doran for clarification. If the portion of roadway is in Port Republic, this will be included in next month's meeting.*

**MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- The community cookbook is coming along. If anyone would like more information, please contact Mayor Giberson.

- She thanked Councilmember Bugdon for stepping down from the School's LEAP Committee, and now Councilmember Ropiecki has joined that committee and will be the liaison between the committee and City Council. Councilmember Ropiecki stated that he has attended one meeting so far and they are essentially looking at the viability of the school going forward. With 110 kids it gets tougher and tougher each year. All options are being reviewed at this point.
- Adams Avenue will be the next road to be paved using NJDOT grant money.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Councilmember Turner questioned if there was an updated on the complaint from the residents on River Road from the last meeting. There have been no changes or updates.

Bob Haviland, resident, questioned if the large stone that was near the bridge is still laying in the woods. Councilmember Riegel responded that it has been pulled out and near the side of the road.

**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 10-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC  
Municipal Clerk