

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:30 P.M. JANUARY 2, 2024**  
**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, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Donna Riegel

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

**CITY CLERK:** Kimberly A. 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 Hammonton Gazette, a meeting notice setting for the time, date, and location of this meeting.

**MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 12, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the December 12, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2024 BILL LIST:**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the January 2024 Bill List.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to pay all signed bills.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN:

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Winneberger reported that we have not had any emergencies, but he has been busy with completed required paperwork.

Scott Winneberger continued that he knows we have had issues with vandalism, speeding and reckless driving as mentioned by Councilmember Hawn during the reorganization meeting. He has had several conversations with the State Police and Station Commander Steet about these issues. They have implemented plans to try and deter those who are causing issues. People who have been caught recently were not residents of Port Republic. With the new camera system will help us greatly in catching those who are creating the issues. Councilmember Turner asked if the camera system will be able to be remotely monitored. Scott responded that it will be able to be viewed at City Hall and by remoting in. We should also give access to the State Police.

Councilmember Ropiecki asked what charges could be brought upon those damaging property. Scott advised that it would be criminal mischief. We have losses not only with the damage being done by the vehicles doing donuts but the manhours to clean up the messes. With every occurrence Public Works has been keeping track of the hours it takes as well as the equipment being used. Since the Spring we are probably at a loss of about \$4,000.00.

Council President Giberson asked if the City should have an Ordinance in place so we can fine them with destruction of property. Scott said the destruction would be covered under criminal mischief, so there is nothing additionally needed by the City. Attorney Kaufmann added that the importance in the City maintaining records is that a judge can impose restitution.

The gates to the baseball field are now locked.

### **Administrative/Personnel:**

Council President Giberson reported that everything is running smoothly, and he thanks all the City employees for their hard work.

### **Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that everything is running smoothly. They are continuing to get ready for winter.

### **Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that things are quiet right now. She explained that with the upcoming Tennis/Basketball/Pickleball Courts project, Councilmember Turner and Councilmember Hawn have been very helpful. She is looking forward to the Spring and Community Day.

Councilmember Hawn asked if the banners on the ballfield have come down. Councilmember Bugdon responded that they are. Councilmember Turner reminded everyone that banners are still for sale if anyone would like to purchase one.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that everything is good at the Fire House. There have been changes in their Officers, Bill Montag will be Lieutenant now, John Yochim will be Assistant Chief and Jack Yochim will be Chief.

They ended the year with a bad accident at Chestnut Neck Road and Route 9. It was a fairly slow 2023, which they are thankful for. They hope 2024 will be the same.

**Planning Board:**

No report

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

No report

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that equipment has still been going out and some donations have come in. She wanted to remind the public that PTR reports will be coming out.

**Land Use:**

Council President Giberson reported that the lease for 400 English Creek Road was awarded at the last City Council Meeting. He says they are working diligently to get the permit process started. They are looking at a 3–4-month timeframe on the short side and 8 months to a year on the longer side for permitting. Discussion ensued regarding when payment would begin for the leasing of the land. Attorney Kaufmann will look into and advise.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Email to Mayor Giberson regarding 400 English Creek Road (*gravel site*)  
*Acknowledged*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

37-2024      Resolution Supporting Participation in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 37-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Draft Bid Packet for Tennis/Basketball/Pickleball Courts
  - Councilmember Turner stated that Council should have the updated and corrected draft bid packet by the next meeting.
  - Council President Giberson requested that the Recreation Committee meet once the draft bid packet is received so they can bring it before Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Set Date for January Budget Workshop Meeting (*January 23, 2024*)

**MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- We have received the City Hall sign. Public Works will work on installing it.
- She thanked Clerk Campellone and Deputy City Clerk Blevin. They make an amazing team. She is never left waiting for an answer to anything. She appreciates them both.
- We are going to try to have the newsletter go out four times a year. We are aiming to have the first one out by mid-January.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 1-2024 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 the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC  
Municipal Clerk