

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC**  
**6:00 P.M. JANUARY 2, 2024**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Municipal Clerk Kimberly A. Campellone 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.

**INVOCATION:**

Invocation given by Pastor Frank Brown of Port Community Church

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE:**

Michael Turner, Ward I, term commencing 1/1/2024, term expiring 12/31/2026

*Oath of Office administered by Deputy City Clerk Brandy Blevin*

Jeffrey Ropiecki, Ward II, term commencing 1/1/2024, term expiring 12/31/2026

*Oath of Office administered by Deputy City Clerk Brandy Blevin*

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Donna Riegel

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC, Municipal Clerk

**ATTORNEY:** William Kaufmann, Esq.

**NOMINATION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to nominate Roger Giberson for Council President.

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

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Riegel

**ABSTAIN:** Giberson

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Oath of Office for one-year term administered to Roger Giberson by Deputy City Clerk Brandy Blevin

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE:**

On the motion of Council President Giberson, seconded by Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to nominate Steven Allgeyer as Council President Pro Tempore.

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

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Riegel

**ABSTAIN:**

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE:**

Oath of Office for one-year term administered to Steven Allgeyer by Deputy City Clerk Brandy Blevin

**MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS:**

State of the City Address given by Mayor Monica Giberson:

Looking back on 2023 I think we should be very proud of our accomplishments. We received a \$70,000 grant for a new tennis, pickleball and basketball court and have enough money in our open space budget to complete this project hopefully in time for the summer season. We also received 2 Sustainable Jersey grants for \$2,000 each for a new garden behind city hall, the creation of a mural by Port School Students on the concession stand, and the printing of the picturesque Port Republic calendar.

We also received a spotted lantern fly grant.

We now have a beautiful, almost complete, brand-new bridge.

After many years of disfunction we now have a working, efficient septic system in city hall. Last month we awarded a contract to a business that will be filling our gravel pit which will generate a guaranteed income for the city.

We have received grant money to repave Mill Street and Adams Ave., which will be completed sometime this year. Our beach is now handicapped accessible thanks to an ADA grant.

The city sold a piece of property for \$25,000 and the Heritage Society is in the process of buying the Old City Garage from the city to restore for their new headquarters.

Four new events were added or reintroduced in the last 2 years. Earth Day, The Duct Boat Regatta, Fall Fest and Holiday on Main. All these events are helping to build a stronger community, giving people the opportunity to work with their neighbors. The City, Fire Company, PTS, Port Community Church, and the Heritage Society have all banded together to make all these events more successful. Our Port Republic Community Cookbook is at the publisher now with a shipping date of January 11th. This cookbook will generate about \$1,500 for the city for future events.

Our biggest obstacles right now are the School and the Dam. We have applied for a grant that will pay for ¾ of the engineering needed to be done for the dam and will hear about that in a year. Decisions for the school will be made by the taxpayers of Port Republic in the November election. The School and the City will be having informative meetings this year educating the public about all the potential impacts.

Looking ahead, new surveillance cameras are ordered and will be installed very soon.

As part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, yesterday was the start of the Mayor's Walking Club. Thirty-four people came out to start their new year with a walk around Port Republic. We even had the Mayor of Absecon join us with her family. I already have a few volunteers to be on the mayor's wellness committee. I have a lot of ideas of things I would like to do for better mental, physical health and fitness for our community members. If you know of anyone who would be an addition to the wellness committee, please let me know. I look forward to the challenges of the new year. The best is yet to come.

**RESOLUTION**

No. 1-2024 Approving Temporary Budget for 2024

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon to adopt Resolution 1-2024.

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

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Riegel

**ABSTAIN:**

**Consent Agenda:** All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by this City Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

**RESOLUTIONS**

- No. 2-2024 Authorization of Cash Management Plan
- No. 3-2024 Establishing Depository Funds for 2024
- No. 4-2024 Authorization of Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$100.00
- No. 5-2024 Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- No. 6-2024 Governing Body Certification Pursuant to P.L. 2017, C. 183 of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”
- No. 7-2024 Resolution Indicating the Schedule of Regular City Council Meetings for the Year 2024
- No. 8-2024 Establishing Rules of Order
- No. 9-2024 Annual Appointments
- No. 10-2024 Appointment of Auditor *namely Nancy Sbrolla, CPA, RMA of Ford, Scott & Associates, LLC*
- No. 11-2024 Appointment of City Solicitor *namely William Kaufmann, Esq. of Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein, PC*
- No. 12-2024 Appointment of Conflict Municipal Attorney *namely Joseph McGroarty, Esq. of Fitzgerald McGroarty*
- No. 13-2024 Appointment of Planning Board Solicitor *namely Joseph McGroarty, Esq. of Fitzgerald McGroarty*
- No. 14-2024 Appointment of Bond Counsel *namely Joel Fleishman, Esq. of Fleishman Daniels Law Offices, LLC*
- No. 15-2024 Appointment of Municipal Engineer *namely Matthew Doran of Doran Engineering, PA*
- No. 16-2024 Appointment of Risk Management Consultant *namely John D’Agostino*
- No. 17-2024 Appointing Fund Commissioner *namely Monica Giberson*
- No. 18-2024 Appointment of Public Safety Director *namely Scott Winneberger*
- No. 19-2024 Appointment of DPW Consultant & Stormwater Management Coordinator *namely Bill Montag*
- No. 20-2024 Appointment of PACO *namely Kimberly Campellone*
- No. 21-2024 Appointment of Animal Control Company *namely A-Academy*
- No. 22-2024 Appointment of Cleaner for City Hall *namely Maria Hamill*
- No. 23-2024 Authorizing an Agreement with Electronic Recyclers International
- No. 24-2024 Authorization to Perform Aerial Applications for Mosquito Control
- No. 25-2024 Authorizing an Agreement with Deer Carcass Removal Service
- No. 26-2024 Authorizing a Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture
- No. 27-2024 Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes and Setting the Grace Period

- No. 28-2024 Authorizing Cancellation of Certain Taxes with Delinquent and Credit Balances Under Five Dollars
- No. 29-2024 Authorizing a Tax Sale Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-19
- No. 30-2024 Authorizing Tax Assessor to Act as Agent and to File Petition(s) of Appeals to Increase Tax Assessment
- No. 31-2024 Authorizing Tax Assessor to Act as Agent and to File Petition(s) of Appeals to Decrease Tax Assessment
- No. 32-2024 Designation of Official Newspaper - *The Press of Atlantic City*
- No. 33-2024 Designation of Secondary Newspaper - *The Hammonton Gazette*
- No. 34-2024 Designation of Shelter for Stray Animals – *The Humane Society of Atlantic County*
- No. 35-2024 Volunteer Tuition Credit Program
- No. 36-2024 Approving Discharge of Fireworks

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer to adopt Consent Calendar Resolutions 2-2024 through and including 36-2024.

**YES:** Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Ropiecki (all Resolutions other than 3-2024 & 4-2024)

**NO:**

**ABSENT:** Riegel

**ABSTAIN:** Ropiecki (#'s 3-2024 & 4-2024), Turner

### **MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Giberson made the following appointments:

- Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator: William Montag
- City Council Liaison to the Planning Board 1-Year Appointment: Donna Riegel

### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Council President Giberson stated that he would like to keep all committees the same as 2023 but he will be reaching out to all councilmembers to make sure they are okay with this.

### **Comments from Mayor and City Council:**

Councilmember Allgeyer shared an ongoing concern that the Fire Department has with the encroachment of their property with the building of fences by neighboring property owners and bamboo. Clerk Campellone stated that Construction Official Kevin Cain is aware and working on the issue. Councilmember Allgeyer added that he appreciates everyone doing a good job and looking out for the City.

Councilmember Bugdon shared that her term will be ending on December 31, 2024. She would like to stay as Chair of the Recreation and Senior Committees this year. She said it has been a pleasure to work with the City. She is hopeful she can find someone to help take over her senior program when her term is up. If not, she would like to continue the program. Council President thanked Councilmember Bugdon and stated that they would love to keep her involved for as long as she is willing.

Councilmember Turner updated everyone on the status of the bid packet for the Tennis/Basketball/Pickleball Courts Project. He met with Engineer Matt Doran to discuss some discrepancies in the draft bid and Council should be receiving an updated draft for review prior to the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Ropiecki stated that it has been a privilege to serve on Council. There may be some challenges coming up, but they will meet them together and together they are stronger.

Councilmember Hawn stated that he thinks things are going well in the City. He appreciates all the help he has been given in his first year on Council. He is upset by the vandalism, speeding and reckless driving that occurs in the town. No matter what has been done, we haven't seemed to have gotten any help. We have to get a handle on it, because it is not getting any better. He is hopeful the new cameras will be helpful.

Mayor Giberson shared that when she started as Mayor she had calculated that about 10% of the community was doing volunteer work. It is certainly more than that now. It is amazing to her how many people are stepping up because they love this place. She is so grateful for them. She also added that many that attended the Mayor's Walk came alone and it made her think there are still a lot of lonely people in town who are looking for things to do. She hopes that together, they can come up with even more things that they can do.

Council President Giberson thanked everyone for their hard work. Many councilmembers have served the community in other capacities besides City Council. Councilmember Ropiecki was on the School Board for many years, and he appreciates the expertise he now brings to City Council. He expressed how each of the councilmembers are excellent councilmembers and citizens of the City of Port Republic. Everyone in this town is lucky to have all who serve here. He thanked Mayor Giberson for her dedication to the community. He looks forward to working with everyone this year. There will be some difficult decisions that will come to them this year, but they'll get through it and hopefully come out better for it in the end.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Pastor Frank Brown and resident Joe Martin thanked Mayor and Council for their service.

Attorney Kaufmann thanked Mayor and Council for his appointment again. He has been practicing law for 34 years and has represented municipalities throughout that entire time. He stated that the City has a highly professional City Hall staff, Clerk Campellone and Deputy City Clerk Blevin. He shared that having them makes his job easier and he imagines the same is true for the City's other professionals.

**CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR TOPICS FOR PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone  
Municipal Clerk