

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. DECEMBER 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

CITY CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone

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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Bugdon

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 2023 BILL LIST:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Council President Giberson reported that Council received a report from OEM Coordinator/Public Safety Director Scott Winneberger. The report read as follows:

Emergency Management Report:

Currently finishing up the updated Emergency Operations Plan for the City.

Public Safety Report:

Ongoing problems with individuals tearing up the parking lots at Park Avenue with their vehicles. Numerous reports have been made to the NJSP. Two weeks ago, it occurred three days in a row. Significant man hours for the DPW department have been used,

Councilmember Hawn advised of an incident that occurred during the city's Tree Lighting Ceremony. We were able to obtain the vehicle information of the suspect. A report was made with the State Police. The NJSP were to speak with the suspect.

Lt. Steet from the NJSP was contacted and was requested to provide extra checks of the park area at night.

Working on upgrading and expanding the camera system for the city, received two quotes on upgrading the camera system from Jersey Shore CCTV and Pro Video. The city originally requested a quote from Atlantic Coast who the city now has; however, they have been unresponsive. Atlantic Coast still has not fixed the broken cameras which were reported to them on 9/1/23. They also never provided a quote after meeting with them and were unresponsive to emails after 10/23/23.

Please remind residents to call the State Police when they witness incidents within the town.

Administrative/Personnel:

Council President Giberson reported that Council received monthly reports from the CFO, Tax Collector, and Municipal Clerk.

The CFO report showed a total ending balance for the month of October 2023 of \$1,332,208.33

The Tax Collector's November 2023 report showed a total amount received of \$703,729.30.

The Municipal Clerk's October 2023 report showed a total amount received of \$11,804.75.

Council President Giberson added that the employees are doing a wonderful job.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that in the month of November the Department of Public Works has completed the following:

- Adding much needed sand to the Port Beach
- Worked with contractor to have lights installed on the city Christmas Tree
- Repaired potholes through town
- Tree trimming as needed.
- Continued winterizing and prepping equipment.

Recreation:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that this year's tree lighting event was the largest ever. She thanked all of Council for the cookie donations made by them. Having the hot chocolate and cookies at the concession stand was a great idea and we will continue to do this in the future. The event ran smoothly and beautifully. She thanked Ron from Local Wildlife Solutions for decorating the tree for the Tree Lighting Event.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported it was a slow month. They had an incident within the last couple nights where the State Police called the Fire Department for assistance on Sooy's Landing Road.

The Fire company held their elections and there will be changes in some of the officers. Chief Yochim will be retiring as Chief and his son Jack Yochim will be taking his place. Councilmember Hawn thanked Chief Yochim for his years of service and dedication to the City. Council President Giberson thanked Chief Yochim for his service and dedication. He expressed how much he appreciates the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, December 11th. They heard a variance for Kurtz on Clarks Landing Road. It was unanimously approved, with conditions.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of November. During the month, a total of 19 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 5 Alterations
- 1 Demos
- 1 New
- 1 Additions
- 4 Zoning Permit
- 1 CO Inspection for Resale
- *Total of 13 permits issued*

There are currently no code enforcement issues.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that a donations have been received from Mayor Giberson and others. She has also received a few requests. It was a busy month.

Heritage Society:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Heritage Society held their first fundraiser on December 2nd. The event was a great success. Homeowners on Main Street were asked to decorate their homes and almost all homeowners did. They held a best decked out doorway contest and Councilmember Riegel presented the certificates to the winners of that contest. The winners were as follows:

- 3rd Place – The Dillon Family
- 2nd Place – The Seyler Family
- 1st Place - The Barcello-Reed Family

Land Use:

Council President Giberson reported there is a resolution listed on the Agenda tonight to award the lease for 400 English Creek Road.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Council President Giberson thanked the State Trooper in attendance. He let him know that there have been problems in the park area, specifically down by the tennis and basketball courts. He asked if there is anything the troopers could do to help with that, it would be greatly appreciated. The Trooper responded they have been conducting checks at night and will continue to do so.

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, requested that the Troopers also conduct checks at Fireman's Pond.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023

Mayor Giberson presented the 2023 Volunteer of the Year award to Kath Anne English. Kathy volunteered her time and worked with the children of Port Republic School to paint the new mural on the concession stand. Kathy shared that the time spent was her pleasure and she loves Port Republic. She said the kids were so polite and sweet.

Mayor Giberson presented Council President Giberson with a memento to commemorate his 25 years on Council.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Invitation to Attend Newly Elected Re-Elect or Experienced Municipal Officials
Acknowledged

Letter of Resignation from Sal Catania Electrical Sub Code Official
The resignation is as of December 1, 2023. For now, the Construction Official has someone who will work as the Electrical Sub Code Official. We will need to hire someone in the near future.

RESOLUTIONS:

88-2023 Resolution Awarding Lease of Municipally Owned Property at 400 English Creek Road

Discussion ensued amongst Council of whether the lease could be negotiated to get more money.

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Riegel to table Resolution 88-2023.

YES: Riegel, Turner

NO: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn, Ropiecki

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon to pass Resolution 88-2023 and carried.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn

NO: Riegel, Turner

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Ropiecki

89-2023 Resolution Confirming Sale of Block 5, Lot 3 Commonly known as 838 Chestnut Neck Road and Authorizing Agreement of Sale

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

90-2023 Resolution Amending Personnel Policies and Procedures

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

91-2023 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement for the FY 2024 FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program for the Mill Street Dam Resiliency Project

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

92-2023 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 129, P.L. 1948) Regarding the Stormwater Assistance Grant (Water Resources Planning Management)

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

93-2023 Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application for the Purchase of Gear and Equipment for the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Department

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Tennis/Basketball Courts Project
The draft bid packet was received from Engineer Matt Doran. Attorney Kaufmann is reviewing the draft. The Recreation Committee will hold a meeting to review and discuss any changes that may be needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Date for Reorganization Meeting will be January 2, 2024, the Regular City Meeting will immediately follow

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- Starting in the new year we will be starting a Mayor's Walking Club. This is part of the Sustainable Jersey Health Initiative.
- The employees will be receiving first aid and CPR classes. After, these classes will be offered to the public.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Steve Turner, 279 Main Street, asked if the lease for 400 English Creek Road was exclusive to the company it was awarded to or if it could be opened to anyone else. Attorney Kaufmann explained that the leasing of the site has been awarded to Scarborough Marine Group, after it was publicly bid.

Joe Mason, 122 Mill Street, questioned who would be inspecting the fill at the project at 400 English Creek Road. Council President Giberson responded that the City Engineer would be doing inspections on behalf of the City. The contractor will also need to supply certified reports showing where the dredge material is coming from. The City has always been concerned with the quality of the material being received and that is why we feel even better with the reputation of the company who has been awarded the lease.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Council President Giberson thanked everyone for coming. He thanked all employees, the Fire Department, Public Works Department, Planning/Zoning Board members, School Board members and all other professionals who work for the City. Everyone does such a great job for this small town we love so much. He thanked all members of Council and the Mayor for all the contributions they have made to the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 12-2023 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk