

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 13, 2024
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Eugene Hawn, Donna Riegel, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Giberson

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

ATTORNEY: William Kaufmann, Esq.

Councilmember Allgeyer 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 JANUARY 2, 2024, REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to approve the January 2, 2024, Reorganization Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to approve the January 2, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 23, 2024, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING & BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the January 23, 2024, Special City Council Meeting & Budget Workshop Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN: Bugdon, Ropiecki

MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 2024 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to approve the February 2024 Bill List.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN: Bugdon

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Winneberger reported that things have been relatively quiet regarding Emergency Management. They are actively participating in a statewide resource management drill.

Regarding Public Safety, the camera system is up and working. Within the first week, he caught about ten (10) incidents of destroying the parking area by the tennis and basketball courts on video and six (6) different people have been identified. So far, two (2) have been charged. More will be charged as they go through the videos. They were all individuals coming in and not groups. Additionally, none of the individuals are Port Republic residents. The sooner the word gets out that people are being caught on camera, the less likely others will be doing this. He also reminded the public to please contact the State Police if they witness anything going on that should not be.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The CFO report showed an ending balance amount of \$1,638,103.04 in the current fund as of November 30, 2023.

The Tax Collector's December 2023 report showed a total amount received of \$54,423.68. The January 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$96,285.49.

The Municipal Clerk's December 2023 report showed a total amount received of \$5,017.07. The January 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$15,509.48.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that everything is running smoothly. The roads were well taken care of during the last storm.

Councilmember Bugdon added that our Public Works did a wonderful job during the last snowstorm. She was disappointed in the condition of Main Street, which is a County roadway. Councilmember Allgeyer added that the County roadways in other municipalities were also terrible.

Councilmember Turner questioned if our Public Works have plowed County roadways in the past. Councilmember Allgeyer responded that we are not allowed to plow County roadways.

Recreation:

No report

Fire and Ambulance:

Assistant Chief John Yochim reported that they are doing well. They had a call in Egg Harbor Township on Monday, February 11th. There was also a bad accident on the Parkway that they were called out to earlier today.

Planning Board:

No report

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted reports for the months of December and January. During the month of December 2023, a total of 15 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 4 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 0 Zoning Permit
- 0 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 4

There are currently no code enforcement issues.

During the month of January 2024, a total of 16 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 3 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 1 New
- 0 Additions
- 3 Zoning Permit
- 0 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 7

Code Enforcement: 61 Clarks Landing Road – fence issue.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that, for those who applied, PTR forms should be received in the mail by the end of the month.

Land Use:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that we are waiting on paperwork from Scarborough Marine Group regarding the leasing of 400 English Creek Road.

Attorney Kaufmann added that Scarborough will be coming into his office on Thursday, February 15th to discuss adding a provision to the lease that allows for the lease to be cancelled in the event that Council changes their minds regarding appointment of their company as redeveloper.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Members of the Port Republic School Board: Joy Hooper, Kevin Wessler, Jr., Eric Stevenson, and Jill Yochim urged Council to vote yes on Resolution 42-2024 which would authorize the City Clerk to publish “notice of availability of mail-in ballots” in connection with a possible tax levy CAP referendum. They explained that voting yes would be non-binding and would only be publishing the possibility of a referendum. Additionally, this would allow the City and School Board time to discuss the amount needed and the budget. If they were to vote no, they would be closing the door on that opportunity.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

39-2024 Resolution Authorizing City Clerk to Advertise for Receipt of Bids on Contract for the Reconstruction of Municipal Tennis and Basketball Courts Along with Related Improvements

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adopt Resolution 39-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

40-2024 Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the FY 2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) Application Funded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 40-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

41-2024 Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Deer Carcass Removal Service, LLC for the City of Port Republic – Amending Resolution 25-2024

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adopt Resolution 41-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

42-2024 Resolution Authorizing City Clerk to Publish “Notice of Availability of Mail-In Ballots” in Connection with a Possible Tax Levy CAP Referendum

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 42-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Giberson

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Inspection Report from Statewide Insurance
Acknowledged

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson asked Assistant Chief Yochim if they had stickers for windows that would show if vulnerable people live in the residence. Assistant Chief Yochim said they could most likely get them and work with the City on distributing them. She additionally reported the following:

- Past Saturday, February 10th, they had a successful maple tree tapping event with 44 people in attendance.
- On the same day, they held a declutter event where over 55 lbs. of unused medication were dropped off and taken by the State Police. They also received clothing donations for the rescue mission and food donations for the food bank.
- The first Saturday of each month they have been doing the Mayors Walk. It has been a great way of getting people together. All are welcome. The next one will be March 2nd.
- Free CPR classes will be held on Tuesday, February 20th and Saturday, February 24th. There are still a few spots open if anyone is interested.

- Information will be coming out about a yoga class that will be offered the 3rd Saturday of March.

Mayor Giberson asked Council if they would be in agreement with getting a free energy audit inventory for City Hall through Sustainable Jersey. Council agreed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Assistant Chief Yochim expressed to Council his appreciation for their work on getting the bridge done. With the bridge being opened, their trucks were the first on scene for a fire in Smithville. They took care of the scene before Oceanville even got there.

Kevin Wessler, Sr., 609 Chestnut Neck Road, commented that many of the young members they have been getting on the Fire Department are those who are moving into town for the school. Without the school, it will also hurt the Fire Department.

Joy Hooper, School Board President, thanked Mayor and Council for their support.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 2-2024 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC
Municipal Clerk