

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. JUNE 11, 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 Hawn and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

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

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

ATTORNEY: Michael Lario, 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 MARCH 19, 2024, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the March 19, 2024, Special City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2024 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to approve the May 2024 Bill List.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to pay all signed bills.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

OATH OF OFFICE – LISA M. MORRIS, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Oath of Office administered by Mayor Giberson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Scott Winneberger reported that the EOP for the City should be submitted to the State within the next week. Through a grant, there is a company who is willing to re-write municipalities EOP's to a national standard. We will be working with them to re-write ours. He is hopeful to have it done by December.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for May 2024 showed a total amount received of \$18,793.30.

The Tax Collector's May 2024 report was attached.

The Chief Financial Officer's April report showed an ending balance of \$1,336,117.47.

Councilmember Turner reported that the City will be hiring new inspectors and have recently hired a new Deputy City Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the willow tree in the park has been removed and they are looking into pricing to replace it. They have been busy mowing and preparing for Port Community Day.

Recreation:

Mayor Giberson reported that the beach has been running very well.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that everything is running smoothly at the Fire Department. Their recent dinner went well, but October will be better.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board held a meeting on Monday, June 10th. They approved the resolution for the variance, with deed restrictions, for Kathy Bridge from last month.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Richard Stevens submitted a report for the month of May. During the month, a total of 8 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 6 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 1 New
- 2 Additions
- 3 Zoning Permit
- 2 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 14

There are no current code enforcement issues.

Senior Services:

No report

Land Use:

Clerk Blevin reported that the second reading of Ordinance 04-2024 for the adoption of the redevelopment plan for 400 English Creek Avenue is listed later in the meeting.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, questioned how successful the City was with the sale of unused equipment from the City Public Works yard was. Clerk Blevin responded that the City made about \$10,000.00.

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, thanked Mayor and Council for allowing them to conduct the Jersey Genesis Triathlon race on Saturday, June 8th. Everything went great and everyone couldn't believe how nice the park is. He made sure Public Works was aware of this. All money raised stays here in the City and is used for the park area.

John Yochim, Port Republic Fire Department Assistant Chief, thanked Mayor and Council for their help with the issues of adjoining property owners fencing on their property. One property moved their fence, however, the other property owner did not. Councilmember Allgeyer responded that Council will stay on top of the issue and will let the new Code Enforcement Officer know.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter of Resignation from Construction Official Kevin Cain, Effective May 31, 2024
Acknowledged
- Letter from Atlantic County Executive Regarding Urban County/HOME Consortium Re-
Qualification Requirements
Acknowledged
- Email from Haddon Antucci, Policy Director of Congressman Jeff VanDrew Regarding Mill
Street Dam Funding
Acknowledged
- Letter from Anthony Fontana, Chief of the Bureau of Solid Waste Permitting Regarding NJPDES
Permit Modification Request – Final Approval
*Mayor Giberson explained that this is in regard to the testing of the wells at the old landfill. We
can now test twice a year, rather than quarterly. This will save us money and she will continue to
ask them why we have to continue to have the site testing when nothing negative has come back.
Councilmember Riegel shared that Councilmember Bugdon had the idea to do a solar ray project
there and have the solar company take over paying for the required testing. Councilmember
Ropiecki raised the concern that the property has not been capped. Mayor Giberson said that
sometimes the solar companies will pay for the capping.*

- Email from Nicole Rein, Wildlife Biologist from the USDA Regarding the June Goose Survey and Potential Capture (*decision needed by June 12th at noon*)
On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Riegel to follow the recommendation of the USDA and performing a capture.
YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner
NO:
ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson
ABSTAIN:

RESOLUTIONS:

65-2024 Resolution Authorizing Payment of School Tax Levy to Port Republic School

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 65-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

66-2024 Annual Appointments

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to adopt Resolution 66-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

67-2024 Designating a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) for the City of Port Republic for 2024 (*namely Brandy M. Blevin*)

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adopt Resolution 67-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

68-2024 Appointment of Construction Official, Building Subcode, Building Inspector, Zoning Officer, Fire Inspector and Fire Subcode (*namely Richard Stevens*)

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 68-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

69-2024 Appointment of Plumbing Inspector, Plumbing Subcode (*namely Jimmy Regalbutto*)

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adopt Resolution 69-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

70-2024 Appointment of Qualified Purchasing Agent (*namely William Montag*)

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 70-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

71-2024 Appointment of Municipal Tax Assessor (*namely William M. Johnson*)

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 71-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

72-2024 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Pomona Avenue

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to adopt Resolution 72-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

73-2024 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 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding FY2024 Clean Communities Grant (\$4,479.67)

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 73-2024.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION:

NONE

ORDINANCES – 2ND READING/ADOPTION:

04-2024 Adopting a Redevelopment Plan for Block 24, Lot 34 (400 English Creek Avenue)

Councilmember Riegel stated that she appreciates all the work that went into this. There is one sentence which is holding her back from voting yes. The sentence is on page 7 and reads, “Considering the Project Area’s site and past use, a solar array appears to be the best use of the parcel. We would then also delete the word “furthermore” in the sentence following.

Councilmember Turner added that Figure 2 (the picture) is mirrored and needs to be corrected.

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Riegel and carried to open for public hearing.

Hearing nothing from the public, Councilmember Riegel moved, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to close the public hearing.

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Ordinance 04-2024, subject to the changes discussed.

YES: Allgeyer, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Giberson

ABSTAIN:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- Port Republic Awarded \$64,000.00 for FY2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant
- Port Republic Community Day – Saturday, June 15, 2024 (*rain date June 22nd*)
- Councilmember Turner requested an update regarding the house on Main Street that had a house fire and was since demoed. Councilmember Allgeyer stated that we can ask our new Code Enforcement Officer for an update on the property.
- Councilmember Turner shared that the recent closure of the bridge is so the County can complete punch list items from building of the bridge.

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported:

- Port Community Day will be Saturday, June 15th.
 - The parade will begin at 4 pm.
 - Councilmember Hawn has organized for 6 food trucks.
 - The Fire Department is doing a corn hole tournament.
 - Thanks to Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein and Doran Engineering, the pony rides will be free for all.
 - Letters will be going out this week to residents along the parade route.
 - A robo call will go out on Thursday, June 13th to let everyone know that the Transfer Station will be closing at noon on Saturday.
 - There will be a milestone celebration recognizing the firemen and social members at 7 pm. If anyone would like to help, please let her know.

- She thanked the Smallwood family for everything they do to make the Jersey Genesis Triathlon happen.
- She will be asking the County if they will move the big stone that has the Elton Bowen plaque on it so that people can see it before they are done doing their work on the bridge. Councilmember Riegel stated that she would like to see it in the grassy area.

Councilmember Riegel asked if the State Troopers would be making sure that no one is on the bridge during Port Community Day. Mayor Giberson responded that there will be State Troopers there that evening.

Mayor Giberson told the story of the June Loggerhead Storm.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 6-2024 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk