

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. JULY 9, 2024
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Doris Bugdon, Eugene Hawn, Donna Riegel, Michael Turner

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Allgeyer, Roger Giberson, Jeffrey Ropiecki

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

ATTORNEY: William Kaufmann, Esq.

Mayor 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 APRIL 9, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to approve the April 9, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 7, 2024, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the May 7, 2024, Special City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN: Bugdon

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 14, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the May 14, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 11, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the June 11, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 2024 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to approve the July 2024 Bill List, with the exception of Purchase Order #24-00312.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to pay all signed bills, with the exception of Purchase Order #24-00312.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

No report

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for June 2024 showed a total amount received of \$12,760.72.

The Tax Collector's June 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$31,819.46.

The Chief Financial Officer provided the Budget to Actual Report through June 30th.

Public Works:

No report

Recreation:

Councilmember Turner stated how nice Port Day was this year and that there was a great turnout. The fireworks were beautiful and there were no fires or incidents otherwise. The park area looked amazing, and he received many compliments on how great the area looked.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that there were no fires during the month of June. They had a fire on July 4th, but that was handled without incident.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, July 8th. They heard from a representative of Blueberry Hill Campground and their counsel. They came before the board to obtain clarification of accessory uses for a campground. The applicant along with their counsel demonstrated that there has been a history of resident caretakers on the property. The Planning Board found that, in this

instance, a caretaker's cottage is an accessory use. Therefore, the applicant does not have to go through zoning.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Richard Stevens submitted a report for the month of June. During the month, a total of 14 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 4 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 3 Zoning Permit
- 2 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 8

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 61 Clarks Landing Road – fence issue. The fence has been moved and the issue has been abated.
- 65 Clarks Landing Road – fence issue. Notice of Violation sent.
- 836 Chestnut Neck Road – Planning Board septic issue. Notice sent.
- 137 Clarks Landing Road – intersection sight triangle block with hedges. Verbal notice given.

Senior Services:

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she has received donations and has fulfilled requests.

Land Use:

No report

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Mayor Vince Sera of Brigantine made a presentation to Mayor and Council informing them of the upcoming offshore wind projects. He urged Council to adopt resolution 74-2024 which unequivocally opposes offshore wind projects, encouraging all municipalities to join opposition and supporting the Atlantic County Executive and Board of Commissioners to utilize its various powers, including legal action to protect the future of Atlantic County. Mayor and Council thanked him for his presentation.

Becca Wessler, 601 Chestnut Neck Road, added that Brigantine along with all the municipalities of Long Beach Island are putting out thousands of taxpayer dollars to fight this. It is a big issue.

Chris Stankus, 321 Clarks Landing Road, shared with Mayor and Council that he has been dealing with water coming from Blueberry Hill Campground's drainage onto his property. It was addressed previously, but their solution is not working. In addition, Mr. Stankus has been trying to contact the County regarding the culvert in front of 329 Clarks Landing Road. Only about a quarter of it is working. Mayor Giberson asked Mr. Stankus to email her the videos and pictures he has, and she will contact the County on his behalf. Attorney Kaufmann explained that if there is a site plan on file with the City, it should include a drainage plan. The City's Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Official can review that plan to see if what is going on comports with the approved site plan. If there is no site plan on file, being that the campground is so old, his advice to Mr. Stankus is to confer with an attorney as this issue is what is referred to as a private nuisance. Councilmember Bugdon also suggested that the issue be brought to

the County Health Department's attention. Councilmember Riegel suggested that The Pinelands also be made aware of the issue.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Mayor Mike Ghassali Regarding the State's Affordable Housing Mandate
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

74-2024 Unequivocally Opposing Offshore Wind Projects, Encouraging all Municipalities to Join the Opposition and Supporting the Atlantic County Executive and Board of Commissioners to Utilize its Various Powers, Including Legal Action to Protect the Future of Atlantic County

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 74-2024.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

75-2024 Statewide Insurance Fund – Resolution to Join (Renew) the Fund (1/1/2024 – 1/1/2027)

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adopt Resolution 75-2024.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

76-2024 Authorizing the Acceptance of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Emergency Building Inspection Program

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 76-2024.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

77-2024 Calling for the Restoration of Energy Tax Receipts

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adopt Resolution 77-2024.

YES: Bugdon, Hawn, Riegel, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Giberson, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION:

NONE

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING/ADOPTION:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Rebid for the Reconstruction of the Tennis/Basketball Courts

Engineer Doran is working on the bid package. The pipe project will be bid separately from the tennis and basketball courts project. A meeting will be set up before the next City Council Meeting to keep this moving.

- Redevelopment Agreement for 400 English Creek Road

Attorney Kaufmann asked Council if they would like to do generic request for proposals which would allow for any and all projects and possibly open the doors to ideas that Mayor and Council may not have thought of before. Council would like to put out a request for proposals for the lease of the land to refill the pit with dredge spoils. Once the pit is filled, they would like to put out a request for proposal to get ideas for the land. Councilmember Turner asked if the request for proposals can be discussed in executive session. Attorney Kaufmann said that it can be while the details are being worked on. Ultimately when they approve the request for proposal it must be done in open session by resolution. Councilmember Turner would like a special meeting to get this approved sooner. Clerk Blevin will discuss with Council President Giberson.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Interlocal Agreement Between Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) & City of Port Republic to Provide Roll-Off Container Service (agreement to expire October 1, 2024)

Council would like to stay with the ACUA and renew the interlocal agreement.

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported:

- Port Day went really well. There was a celebration to honor the fire fighters and it was a special honor for her to know that 18 of the members are lifetime members and 2 members have been with the department for 69 years.
- Plans for the Duct Tape Boat Regatta have begun. It will be held on Sunday, September 15th. They are hoping to add a fundraiser for the Education Foundation.
- Bill Smallwood will be utilizing funds from the Port Republic Athletic Foundation to hire a landscaper to clear out the Longo/Smallwood Garden area.
- The city-wide yard sale went well this year. It was run by Gretchen Halfpenny and she will be running it again next year.
- Repaving of Mill Road is supposed to begin this week.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, questioned when the paving of Mill Road from Main Street to Riverside Drive would be taking place. This portion is being done by the County. Mayor Giberson responded that she has spoken with the County and they would like the asphalt company to repave the entirety of Mill Street all at one time. Ultimately, it will be when the asphalt company schedules the jobs.

Mayor and Council discussed the progress of the bridge. The County is still waiting for approval from the DEP to finish the drainage job.

Stephanie Grossman, 135 Old New York Road, discussed an incident where her partner's picture was posted to a Facebook group. He was on their property in the wooded area and his picture was being circulated because one of the neighbors thought he was a strange person. They are unable to join the Facebook group and wanted to introduce themselves as this could have turned into a bad situation.

Mayor Giberson reminded residents that if there is an issue they should contact the State Police immediately.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 7-2024 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk