

## **CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 8, 2025 – 6:30 pm**

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, David Crawford, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Donna Riegel

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

**ATTORNEY:** William J. Kaufmann, Esq.

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Amy Stover, CMFO

**AUDITOR:** Nancy Sbrolla, CPA, RMA

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 Hammonton Gazette, a meeting notice setting for the time, date, and location of this meeting.

**MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 11, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to approve the March 11, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Crawford, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN: Giberson

**MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 11, 2025, CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the March 11, 2025, City Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Crawford, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN: Giberson

**MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 2025 BILL LIST:**

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to approve the April 2025 Bill List.

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Riegel  
ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to pay all signed bills.

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Riegel  
ABSTAIN:

**BUDGET 2025**

Resolution 55-2025 Resolution Authorizing the Budget be Read by Title Only

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 55-2025.

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Riegel  
ABSTAIN:

*Public Hearing of the 2025 Budget*

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

Auditor Sbrolla advised that the budget being adopted is the same as the introduced budget. The City was under State review this year, and the State had no changes. We are adopting the budget with a 1.3 cent increase.

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

Resolution 56-2025 Resolution Approving Final Adoption of the 2025 City of Port Republic Municipal Budget

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 56-2025.

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Riegel  
ABSTAIN:

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Police/Emergency Management:**

Mayor Giberson reported that there was damage done to the pirate ship playground. A child from town was bragging about doing it, and will be spoken to. We are working on ordering signs for rules for the playground, but we do not currently have any there.

### **Administrative/Personnel:**

Mayor and Council received monthly reports from the Municipal Clerk and Tax Collector.

The Municipal Clerk's report for March 2025 showed a total amount received of \$5,796.05.

The Tax Collector's March 2025 report showed a total amount received of \$22,513.83.

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that all employees are doing a great job as usual. We are in the process of filling the position of Construction Official with Rich's upcoming retirement.

### **Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the department finished placing the rocks down by the ramp, painted the two dugouts and are working on the roadway going back to the Transfer Station.

### **Recreation:**

Councilmember Turner reported that the new backstop for the baseball field has been completed, and it looks great. The basketball, tennis and pickleball court demolition has began and things should be moving along quickly.

### **Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that things have slowed down at the Fire House since the last meeting. They purchased a Chief's truck from Tuckerton Fire Company.

### **Planning Board:**

Mayor Giberson reported that at the meeting on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Board approved a subdivision with no variances. There was also a discussion about the Affordable Housing requirement, which she will discuss later on in the meeting.

### **Construction/Code Enforcement:**

Construction Official Richard Stevens submitted reports for the month of March.

During the month of March, a total of 12 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 2 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 4 Zoning Permits

- 1 CO Inspection for Rental
- Total of 7

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 840 Chestnut Neck Road – construction debris – Notice of Violation issued

**Land Use:**

No report.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, spoke to Mayor and Council about the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 24, 2025. Council President Giberson thanked Bill Smallwood for all his hard work.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Resignation Letter from Richard E. Stevens, Construction Official/Zoning Officer – effective April 30, 2025

*Acknowledged*

Email from Joseph J. DeMauro, Senior Field Representative from NJ Transit – Regarding Proposed Bus Stops City of Port Republic (Atlantic County) US 9

*Acknowledged – Council decided that we will not be signing off on that and we will let them move forward on their own.*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

57-2025 Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Application for the Mill Street Dam Improvements

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 57-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING/INTRODUCTION:**

None

**ORDINANCES – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING/ADOPTION:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 400 English Creek Road (Block 24, Lot 34) Redevelopment Area

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 58-2025, designating Mobile Dredging & Video Pipe, Inc. as the Conditional Redeveloper for 400 English Creek Road Redevelopment Area.

YES: Allgeyer, Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Riegel

ABSTAIN: Ropiecki

- Tennis/Basketball/Pickleball Courts – demolition started April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Sale of Beach Tags Began on April 1<sup>st</sup> – Last Day for the Discounted Rate will be May 23<sup>rd</sup>

- CDBG Applications Due May 1<sup>st</sup>

*Council would like to apply to have the back door of City Hall converted to our handicap accessible access. We will move forward with applying for that.*

- Spring Citywide Cleanup – Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10am until 12pm

**MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- The Citywide Yard Sale will be on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. It is being headed by Gretchen Halfpenny and Trish Zatorski. They would like to utilize the pavilion and rent spaces along Park Avenue. Forms will be posted soon on Facebook and the City's website.
- Polistina & Associates have a Planner on staff that she would like to speak with regarding the City's obligation for Affordable Housing. She is looking to obtain the Council's approval before she contacts the office. She is hearing about more communities who are facing litigation for not complying with the new regulations. Attorney Kaufmann explained that Port Republic's obligation is to provide for 10 units. The City is only obligated to provide in the Zoning a suitable location. Council agreed for Mayor Giberson to contact the Planner at Polistina & Associates to find out what our next steps need to be.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 4-2025 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk