

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 13, 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, Donna Riegel, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Brandy M. Blevin, RMC

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

MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 8, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the April 8, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 2025 BILL LIST:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Mayor and Council received a report from Scott Winneberger, Public Safety Director. The report gave an update on security cameras that will be installed as well as his assessment and dealings with the letter received from residents Alan and Marjorie Riche regarding safety concerns along English Creek Road.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for April 2025 showed a total amount received of \$19,215.67.

The Tax Collector's April 2025 report showed a total amount received of \$132,940.75.

The Chief Financial Officer submitted a Budget to Actual report through April 30, 2025.

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that the Personnel Committee interviewed and recommended for hire Pat Naticchione as the City's Construction Official, Building Subcode, Building Inspector, Zoning Officer, Fire Inspector and Fire Subcode. Pat Naticchione introduced himself to Mayor, Council and the public in attendance. Councilmember Ropiecki thanked the Personnel Committee, Mayor Giberson and Clerk Blevin for making themselves available for interviews.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the department has been working on tree trimming and grass cutting. They have been working along the shoulder of Riverside Drive. Work was done on the trash compactor. They will be working on obtaining quotes for other services that need to be done.

Recreation:

Councilmember Turner reported that the construction of the tennis, basketball and pickleball courts is moving along. He contacted Atlantic City Electric to inquire about having a pole donated for the other side of the courts. He would like this to have a light and possibly a camera.

Council President Giberson questioned if they will be paving the parking lot area for handicap parking spaces. Councilmember Turner responded that this will most likely occur after and he believes it is a concrete pad, more than a parking lot.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that the Fire House has been much busier this past month. The Chief's truck is almost finished and should be on the road soon. The Fire House Roast Beef Dinner will be on Saturday, May 17th and they need all the support they can get.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, May 12th. The Board passed a resolution regarding the subdivision on Pomona Avenue. They also discussed Affordable Housing. The City is now obligated to have 10 units. We do have 5 currently with Caring House. They do feel the area along Route 9, with public transportation, would be a good area to designate. Mayor Giberson reminded Council that the Master Plan will be due again in 2026.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

No report.

Land Use:

Council President Giberson reported that he and Mayor Giberson met with representatives from Mobile Dredging regarding the Redevelopment of 400 English Creek Road. The company is working on getting everything together on their end, and we should have a response from them by the next City Council Meeting.

Attorney Kaufmann suggested that Council add a resolution which would extend the deadline for Mobile Dredging from May 23rd to June 2nd.

Councilmember Riegel asked Attorney Kaufmann about the redevelopment that was started before for Block 6, Lot 51. A resolution was adopted which states that the area meets the criteria, does the City have to start over or can they start where they left off. It was done about 9 years ago. Attorney Kaufmann replied that he would look at the file and let her know.

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 regarding the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon which will be held on Saturday, May 24th. He reminded everyone that the beach and transfer station will be opening at noon that day. Mayor and Council thanked Bill Smallwood for all he does.

Kathy Cox, 123 Moss Mill Road, shared that she was pleased to see the police presence in town.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2026 State Aid Program (*deadline for grant application submission is July 1st*)

Acknowledged – Council will apply for the second half of Pomona Avenue

Email from Alan & Marjorie Riche Regarding Safety Concerns Along English Creek Road

Acknowledged - Council President Giberson shared that the City's Public Safety Director has been in contact with the NJ State Police regarding the concerns expressed in the letter. He explained that the City unfortunately does not have control over County roadways, but we will continue to request assistance from NJ State Police for the speeding issue.

Letter from Dennis Levinson, County Executive Regarding the Jersey Genesis Triathlon

Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

59-2025 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding the Recycling Tonnage Grant

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 59-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

60-2025 Appointment of Construction Official, Building Subcode, Building Inspector, Zoning Officer, Fire Inspector and Fire Subcode, *namely Pat Naticchione*

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 60-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

61-2025 Extending Deadline to Negotiate Redevelopment Agreement and Lease
On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 61-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION:

03-2025 Vacating Clark's Mill Road Between Upper Pomona Avenue and English Creek-Port
Republic Road (a.k.a. County Route 575)

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to introduce Ordinance 03-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING/ADOPTION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 400 English Creek Road (Block 24, Lot 34) Redevelopment Area
This was addressed earlier in the meeting, under Land Use Committee Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Port Republic Volunteer Fire Department Dinner – Saturday, May 17th – 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Jersey Genesis Triathlon – Saturday, May 24th

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- We have 5 units for Affordable Housing included in Caring House. Therefore, we are only shy by 5. She has been in contact with someone from Vince Polistina's Office who is going to look into this further for the City.
- Paperwork to sign up for the parade this year is being updated.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Alan Riche, 321 English Creek Road, addressed Mayor and Council regarding the letter he and his wife wrote pertaining to their safety concerns along English Creek Road. Mr. Riche asked if they could also consider additional signage along the roadway and potentially dropping the speed limit. Council President Giberson explained that the roadway is owned and maintained by the County. Mayor Giberson added that Scott Winneberger will be conducting a data study which will show the traffic and the speeds that can be sent to the County. Attorney Kaufmann reiterated that the City Council does not have the authority to do anything on a county roadway.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, suggested that the solar speed sign could be moved further down towards the gunning club. Council President Giberson responded we could look into this.

Amanda Cantell, 27 River Road, asked if other considerations have been made to deter speeding such as speed bumps or texture along the roadway. Councilmember Riegel replied that they will not install them because of the liability, you typically only see them in privately owned areas.

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, reminded everyone that message boards will be put up next week for the Triathlon and if anything is on the message boards that should not be, they should contact the police.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 5-2025 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk