

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JULY 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, 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 JUNE 3, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the June 3, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Crawford, Giberson, Turner

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki

MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 2025 BILL LIST:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Crawford, Giberson, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Hawn

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Scott Winneberger reported that there was a fire at Fireman's Pond due to fireworks and there were motorcycles in the area doing donuts. Information regarding both incidents has been sent to the NJ State Police. The additional cameras for the various park areas are still on hold because we are waiting for Atlantic City Electric. He will continue to follow up.

A discussion ensued regarding the trails and Green Acres Properties. It was determined that the City is responsible for maintaining them and the Department of Public Works will be asked to evaluate and maintain them when the weather is more suitable to do so.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for June 2025 showed a total amount received of \$11,540.20.

The Tax Collector's report for May 2025 showed a total amount received of \$780,416.45. The report for June 20225 showed a total amount received of \$19,323.81.

The Chief Financial Officer provided a Budget to Actual Report Through June 30, 2025.

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that everything is going great and everyone is doing a great job.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the department has been doing the following:

- Grass cutting throughout the town, including roadside cutting
- Trimming roadside trees as needed
- Repaired and replaced multiple street signs
- Filled potholes on the City streets and at Fireman's Pond
- Set-up and breakdown of Port Community Day
- Completed maintenance on mowers and tractors

Recreation:

Councilmember Turner reported that there was an issue between the contractor of the Tennis/Basketball/Pickleball Courts and the fencing company they subcontracted with. The contractor has since hired another company and is looking to start the fence within the next week.

A complaint was raised regarding people swimming in areas they should not be swimming in, such as near the boat ramp and kayak launch. There are some “no swimming” signs there now, but Council would like to look into nicer larger signs.

Fire and Ambulance:

Council President Hawn reported that the past month has been busy. The Fire Department responded to a few car accidents and fires on the Parkway. They also responded to the fireworks incident where the fireworks caught fire and were left to burn.

Port Community Day went well for the Fire Company. They had a good turnout with Oceanville, New Gretna and NJ Fire Service all supporting them and participating in the parade.

Planning Board:

No report.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Pat Naticchione submitted reports for the month of June 2025.

During the month of June, a total of 7 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 4 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 1 New
- 0 Additions
- 1 Zoning Permit
- 0 CO Inspections / Resale
- Total of 6

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 2 – pending reinspection

Land Use:

They will discuss the status of the Redevelopment during the Executive Session.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Memorandum from Susan R. Grogan Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan – dated June 17, 2025 (*written comments will be accepted through August 18, 2025*)

Acknowledged

- Letter from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson Regarding County Tax Assessing – dated July 2, 2025

Mayor Giberson shared that she attended the Statewide Tax Assessors meeting. The local municipal Tax Assessors would like the local municipalities to keep their Tax Assessors and not to join the County as Atlantic County has presented. Mayor Giberson is listening to what both sides have to say and she feels it is best we do our homework before making any decisions.

- Letter from Atlantic County Tax Administrator Theresa Prendergast Regarding Coard of Taxation July 16th Meeting – *Port Republic will be discussed to Determine if Reevaluation is Needed*

Mayor Giberson and Tax Assessor Bill Johnson will be attending. The meeting is a public meeting and all are invited to attend.

RESOLUTIONS:

67-2025 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 67-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

68-2025 Expressing Support for New Jersey Senate Bill S4065

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 68-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION:

None

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING/ADOPTION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Riegel questioned Attorney Kaufmann on the status of the Redevelopment of Block 6, Lot 51 and Block 18, Lot 1. The redevelopment process was started in 2016 and was left at the point where Council approved the determination of the Planning Board that the

locations are determined an area in need of redevelopment (Port Republic Resolution 50-2016). Attorney Kaufmann stated that the process can continue from where it left off and the next step would be to develop the redevelopment plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Turner asked if Council could get an update on the status of Block 30, Lot 10 (233 Main Street). Clerk Blevin will ask Construction Official Naticchione for the status and report back to Mayor and Council. He also shared that people have asked him for video or audio recordings of the City Council Meetings. Most of Council is not in favor of this option.

Councilmember Allgeyer asked if there has been an update on the fence that is encroaching the Fire Department's property. Clerk Blevin will look into this as well and report back with any updates.

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- Shared how proud she is of Jacob, a student at Port Republic School, who recently graduated from 8th grade and was in the audience.
- Shared how two residents who are seniors in high school came to her with a presentation on a business they would like to start in the community where they pick up people's trash and take it to the Transfer Station for them. She commends them on their ideas and initiative.
- Thanked Councilman Hawn and the Fire Department for their participation and for coordinating the food trucks for Port Community Day. Council President Giberson thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication on Port Community Day.
- Asked Council to consider doing the Trunk-or-Treat event in October and to participate in next year's Port Community Day as it will be the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- Discussed the option of licensing the ice cream trucks that visit the beach area. Council is not interested in mercantile licensing.

Councilmember Riegel invited everyone to the "Sea Captains of Port Republic" event that the Heritage Society will be hosting at City Hall on July 23, 2025.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, shared his concern over CRT trash trucks that do not properly secure their trash and it ends up on the roadways. This is also an issue with residents not securing their trash properly. We will send out a reminder.

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 7-2025 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. Cell Tower Lease (River Road Location) – Lease #22590 – Expiration 8/3/2025
2. Redevelopment Plan – 400 English Creek Road

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution ES 7-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to close executive session.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk