

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2026 – 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 Crawford and carried to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** David Crawford, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Jeffrey Ropiecki (arrived at 6:32 pm), Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Steven Allgeyer, Donna Riegel

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

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

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

Council President Giberson called the meeting to order and led 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 forth the time, date, and location of this meeting.

**MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 6, 2026, CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Turner and carried to approve the January 6, 2026, City Council Reorganization Meeting Minutes.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 6, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the January 6, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 27, 2026, BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Turner and carried to approve the January 27, 2026, Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel, Ropiecki  
ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 2026 BILL LIST:**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Turner and carried to approve the February 2026 Bill List.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

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

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel, Ropiecki

ABSTAIN:

*Councilmember Ropiecki arrived at 6:32 pm.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Police/Emergency Management:**

Scott Winneberger presented to Mayor and Council two speed studies, one for Main Street and one for English Creek Road. He shared both studies with the NJ State Police.

**Administrative/Personnel:**

Council President Giberson reported that Council received monthly reports from the Municipal Clerk and Tax Collector.

The Municipal Clerk's report for January 2026 showed a total amount received of \$9,616.93.

The Tax Collector's report for December 2025 showed a total amount received of \$122,996.87.

The report for January 2026 showed a total amount received of \$191,776.11.

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that everything is going well.

**Public Works:**

Mayor Giberson reported that the Public Works Department did an excellent job with snow removal.

Councilmember Hawn shared that the floating dock was not removed during the storm and was damaged.

**Recreation:**

No report.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that there was a large residential fire on Park Place in Galloway last Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department held their installation dinner on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> where their officers were sworn in. He thanked Mayor Giberson for attending. The Fire Department's May dinner will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> this year.

**Planning Board:**

Mayor Giberson shared that the Planning Board will be working on the Master Plan update which is due this year. She asked Council if there is anything Council would like to change or update in the plan to let the Planning Board know.

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

Construction Official Pat Naticchione submitted a report for the month of January 2026.

During the month of January, a total of 10 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 12 Alterations
- 0 Demo
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 5 Zoning Permits
- 0 CO Inspections / Resale
- Total of 17

The following code enforcement issues were noted:

- 177 Chestnut Neck Road – checking on progress – they still have not removed the dumpster or stopped running business for dwelling.

**Land Use:**

No report.

**School Finance Committee:**

No report.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

John Yochim, 456 Chestnut Neck Road, questioned if Mayor and Council could send a letter to the County regarding their lack of response during the recent snowstorm. Mayor Giberson shared that she did contact the County and asked if they could provide equipment for our DPW so they could help. The County responded that they feel their equipment is outdated. There are still options to look into, such as shared service. She will continue to work on this.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, shared that the radar speed sign on English Creek Road near The Gunning Club has not been working. Scott Winneberger advised that since it is solar and the weather has not been sunny, it will stop working.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

39-2026 Change of Custodian of Petty Cash Fund

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 39-2026.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

40-2026 Authorizing the Transfer of 2025 Appropriation Reserves

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 40-2026.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Adoption:**

01-2026 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

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

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

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Ordinance 01-2026.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Ropiecki, Turner

NO:

ABSENT: Allgeyer, Riegel

ABSTAIN:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 2026 Budget - Council President Giberson shared that the budget as presented is at a 1.4-cent tax increase. The budget will be introduced in March.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT/PROCLAMATIONS:**

No report/proclamations.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 2-2026 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Turner and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk