

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 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 Allgeyer and carried, the workshop portion of the meeting was closed.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven Allgeyer, David Crawford, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Donna Riegel, Jeffrey Ropiecki

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Turner

**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 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 FEBRUARY 10, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the February 10, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Crawford, Giberson, Hawn, Ropiecki

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN: Allgeyer, Riegel

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

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

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Turner  
ABSTAIN:

## **BUDGET 2026**

### *First Reading/Introduction*

Auditor Sbrolla shared that the budget being introduced has a 1.4 cent increase.

Resolution 41-2026 Resolution Authorizing the Budget be Read by Title Only

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 41-2026.

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Turner  
ABSTAIN:

Resolution 42-2026 Resolution Authorizing Introduction of the 2026 Municipal Budget

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 42-2026.

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

NO:  
ABSENT: Turner  
ABSTAIN:

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Scott Winneberger discussed the major snowstorm that occurred on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Public Works Department did a great job. Scott submitted costs from the storm and will be attending a County meeting next week and is hopeful he may get more information on whether or not we may receive reimbursement. Scott reminded everyone that if they see any damage to municipal or non-profit property during the storm, they can take pictures and let him know. This can all be submitted for damages.

Mayor Giberson thanked Scott for all the work he did during the storm as well.

### **Administrative/Personnel:**

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for February 2026 showed a total amount received of \$13,658.36.

The Tax Collector's report for February 2026 showed a total amount received of \$837,203.68.

**Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the floating dock was damaged during the storm. They are working on the backhoe, which needs a new alternator. All the new signs that were ordered and received have now been installed.

**Recreation:**

Mayor Giberson reported that a meeting was held with the various baseball teams which utilize the field. A schedule has been set, and the teams are working nicely together. There was discussion on possibly obtaining a scoreboard for the field and how that could be achieved.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that the Fire Department was busy with the storm, but everything went well.

**Planning Board:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Master Plan which they will be working on this year. Council was provided with a reexamination report to review. Councilmember Riegel explained the process and asked if Council has any suggestions or changes they would like made to let Mayor Giberson or herself know.

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

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

During the month of February, a total of 15 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 4 Alterations
- 0 Demo
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 0 Zoning Permits
- 1 CO Inspections / Resale
- Total of 5

No code enforcement issues were noted.

Councilmember Hawn would like a follow-up about the condition of 233 Main Street. Clerk Blevin will follow up with Construction Official Naticchione.

**Land Use:**

No report.

**School Finance Committee:**

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that he spoke with Eric Stevenson from the School Board. They are running slightly behind as they are awaiting numbers from the State for their aid amount. They will be planning a meeting in the near future.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Jason (last name unclear) addressed Council and stated that he is working with a group of citizens advocating for the protection of the Mullica River. He explained that a similar designation exists for the Great Egg Harbor River and has been in place for approximately 30 years. According to Jason, the designation would allow the National Park Service to provide protection against certain federal projects. He noted that it would not otherwise change how the river is currently used, but could provide federal leverage if agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed a large project, such as installing a floodgate across the Mullica River. He added that the designation could also assist with obtaining grant funding for recreational improvements, such as docks.

Jason stated that he previously lived in Port Republic for 10 years and now resides outside of Hammonton. He described the Mullica River as a special place and said the group's goal is to determine how to protect it for the long term. He explained that presenting a resolution, such as the one scheduled later on the agenda, is one approach they identified and asked Council to consider supporting the resolution.

Council President Giberson responded that Mayor Giberson had provided Council with a copy of his report; however, Council had only received it that evening and had not yet had time to review it. He stated that he would like time to review the information and suggested that Council could discuss the matter at a future City Council meeting if they decide to consider adoption of the resolution of support.

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, commended Kyle, Dave, Bill and Scott on their work during the storm. Joe expressed his concern over the Fireman's Pond area being torn up on Friday and Saturday evenings. He questioned the status of the cameras that the City is working on installing. Scott responded that he is continuing to work with Atlantic City Electric on the project.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

43-2026 Resolution Supporting the Introduction of Federal Legislation to Study the Mullica River for Designation as a Partnership National Wild and Scenic River

*Resolution 43-2026 was tabled.*

44-2026 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 Riegel, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to  
adopt Resolution 44-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading/Introduction:**

02-2026 Establishing the Salaries and Wages of Certain Officials, Officers, and Employees  
of the City of Port Republic

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried  
to introduce Ordinance 02-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Rabies Clinic – March 28th at the DPW Garage – 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Councilmember Riegel proposed generating revenue at the boat ramp by charging trailer parking fees: \$40 per season for residents and \$20 per day for non-residents. Payment could be handled via QR-code signs that include a hold harmless and park rules, monitored by existing cameras without additional staff. Trailer parking areas would need to be clearly marked, with signs on Park Avenue and surrounding areas indicating no-parking zones. Violations or unpaid fees would incur a \$100 fine. Councilmember Hawn asked if non-residents could get seasonal passes; Riegel confirmed they could not. Mayor Giberson inquired about enforcement and court involvement; Attorney Kaufmann noted fines would go through County Court. Scott explained that for other camera-captured offenses, NJSP contacts violators or issues summonses. Discussion followed regarding fine enforcement. Council President Giberson thanked Riegel and suggested further review, with Kaufmann recommending review of Linwood and Somers Point ordinances, noting the difference that those towns have police departments.

**MAYOR'S REPORT/PROCLAMATIONS :**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- The City Assessor was notified by a company working on behalf of South Jersey Gas that they are proposing to extend natural gas service into much of the City.

- Port Day 2026 is still being planned. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at City Hall at 10 am for anyone who is interested in helping to plan.
- On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> a representative from the Governor's Office will be visiting Port Republic. She stated that she will inform the representative what a great City Port Republic is and that the City intends to keep its school.

**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, advised that the County fixed the sign across the bridge at Clarks Mill Stream now properly identifying it as Port Republic and not Egg Harbor Township.

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, shared that the Heritage Society will be hosting a dinner and Chinese auction on April 18th. Anyone interested in attending, please contact the Heritage Society.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 3-2026 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk