

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 14, 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 (remotely by telephone), Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:**

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

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

**ATTORNEY:** Emanuel Sanfilippo, III, 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 MARCH 10, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the April 2026 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 by Councilmember Crawford and carried to pay all signed bills.

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

NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

**2026 BUDGET - Adoption**

Resolution 45-2026 Resolution Authorizing the Budget be Read by Title Only

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 45-2026.

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

NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

*Public Hearing of the 2026 Budget*

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

Auditor Sbrolla advised that the budget being adopted is the same as the introduced budget. The City was under self-review this year, and there are no changes. The budget includes a 1.4-cent increase.

Councilmember Turner asked for an update on the CD. It was reported that the funds remain in the account.

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

Resolution 46-2026 Resolution Approving Final Adoption of the 2026 City of Port Republic Municipal Budget

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 46-2026.

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

NO:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Police/Emergency Management:**

No report.

**Administrative/Personnel:**

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for March 2026 showed a total amount received of \$8,767.43.

The Tax Collector's report for March 2026 showed a total amount received of \$36,341.19.

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that the position of Beach Badge Attendants has been posted and interviews will be scheduled. All other employees are doing great.

**Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the department has been cleaning up around town. They fixed the guardrail that was damaged at Mill Pond. Operations are running smoothly.

**Recreation:**

Councilmember Turner reported that he unfortunately will not be able to get a helicopter here for Port Day.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that the Spring has been a lot slower than the Winter. They are getting ready for their Spring dinner which will be on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Board:**

Councilmember Riegel reported that at the City Council Meeting held on March 10, 2026, she distributed the planner's report regarding the upcoming update to the City's Master Plan. She requested that any councilmember with suggestions provide them to her prior to the Planning Board meeting scheduled for May 11, 2026, or attend the meeting to share their input.

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

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

During the month of February, a total of 20 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 5 Alterations
- 2 Demos
- 0 New
- 1 Addition
- 3 Zoning Permits
- 2 CO Inspections / Resales
- Total of 13

The following Code Enforcement issues were noted:

- 233 Main Street – still open (summons)
- 177 Chestnut Neck Road – still open (summons)
- 75 Clarks Landing Road – trash and debris / cleaned N.C.A.

**Land Use:**

A proposal was received regarding a solar ground opportunity at 400 English Creek Road. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

**School Finance Committee:**

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that they had a good meeting with the school's Finance Committee. The school is in a similar situation as the City, with a 37% increase in health insurance benefits. 95% of their expenses they have are contractual and therefore not controllable. They are currently looking at a tax increase of 8.37 cents. This would result in an approximate \$100,000 increase in the tax levy.

Council President Giberson shared how the true problem is the broken funding formula on how the schools are funded in New Jersey. He added that there is a teacher from Ocean County who is sharing on social media the issues and pushing for change.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the funding formula.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Joe Martin, 5 Mill Street, shared that he saw an article that there is a bill heading to the Senate that is requiring mandatory consolidation of smaller school districts. Council President Giberson responded that he was unaware of a bill being introduced, but he knows this has been a topic of discussion for many years.

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, spoke to Mayor and Council about the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2026. Council President Giberson thanked Bill for all his hard work.

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, thanked the Public Works Department and Councilmember Turner for helping clean up the pine trees that had fallen during the snowstorm.

**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:**

- Letter from Deborah Wahl, Polistina & Associates, LLC, Recommending Final Payment for the Reconstruction of Tennis, Pickleball and Basketball Courts Project – Dated March 13, 2026

*Councilmember Turner will do a final walkthrough of the job and let Clerk Blevin know when it is okay to release payment.*

- Letter from Theresa Prendergast, Atlantic County Tax Administrator, to Marita Sciarrotta, Director of New Jersey Division of Taxation, along with Atlantic County Resolution 2026-04 Amending Resolution 2025-08 in the Matter of the Revaluation of the City of Port Republic (postponed to completion date of September 30, 2027, to be effective for the year 2028) – Dated March 18, 2026

*Clerk Blevin added that she will be attending a meeting with City Engineer Doran and Tax Assessor Johnson to discuss updating the tax maps and having them send to the State for approval.*

- Email from Wilfred Nieves from Cultivate Power Regarding Solar Ground Opportunity at 400 English Creek Road – Dated March 19, 2026

*Council President Giberson stated that a meeting will be set up for Thursday, April 23rd and would like the Land Use Committee to attend if possible. Mayor Giberson shared that the solar company said that it would be 20% off for anyone who joins with them, they also offer community benefits, such as a STEM program or playground improvements.*

- Letter from Deborah Wahl, Polistina & Associates, LLC, Recommending Payment Application No. 1 for Reconstruction of Adams Avenue – Dated April 9, 2026

*Acknowledged*

- Letter from Bob McGuigan from Atlantic County Improvement Authority, Regarding 2025 Notice of CDBG Funding (Grant Funding in the Amount of \$77,700.00)

*This funding is meant toward ADA improvements to the back door of City Hall. The City will be proceeding with this project.*

- Letter from Deborah Wahl, Polistina & Associates, LLC, Notice of Final Completion of the Reconstruction of Adams Avenue – Dated April 13, 2026

*Acknowledged*

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

47-2026 Authorizing City Clerk to Advertise for Receipt of Bids on Pomona Avenue – Phases I & II Reconstruction Contract

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 47-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

48-2026 Resolution Appointing Rocco Delareto as a Voluntary Firefighter for the City of Port Republic

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 48-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

49-2026 Resolution Appointing Brian Wessler as a Voluntary Firefighter for the City of Port Republic

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 49-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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

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 open for public hearing.

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Lifeguard Stand and Floating Dock

*Council has decided to move forward with purchasing a new floating dock and having DPW construct a new lifeguard stand.*

- Planning Board Meeting on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> Regarding Updating of Master Plan
- Proposed Trailer Parking Fees

*Council President Giberson shared some concerns about the process. Councilmember Riegel explained how this idea, if implemented, could help offset costs incurred by out-of-town users of the city's recreational area. Mayor Giberson shared concerns that Public Safety Officer Scott Winneberger had with enforcement. Clerk Blevin will proceed with contacting the two app companies to schedule demonstrations and obtain information..*

*Council will then move forward with deciding if they want to do this by a parking permit or if they will utilize a pay by app option.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2026 CDBG Applications Due by Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

*There are no plans on applying for this grant at this time.*

- Citywide Cleanup – Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – 10am – 12pm

**MAYOR’S REPORT/PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- The Citywide Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Forms to register can be found in City Hall and online. Fees to register will be going to the Heritage Society.
- On March 16, 2026, Clerk Blevin and Mayor Giberson hosted Kemani Scott who is the Senior Aide for Intergovernmental Affairs for Governor Sherrill. He was given a tour of City Hall and all of Port Republic.
- On April 9, 2026, Clerk Blevin and Mayor Giberson attended a virtual meeting with Jim Rutala and representatives from Senator Corey Booker’s Office in reference to the Mill Street Dam Project funding request. They stated that the City qualifies and that the application is compelling. We should hear within the next week if our application was accepted and will move onto the next phase.
- The City was not approved for the Local Recreation Improvement Grant this year, but Port School was. They will be replacing the playground at the school.
- Ongoing planning is happening for upcoming Port Day Celebration. The next meeting will be at 10 am on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, if anyone wants to attend to help plan.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Council President Giberson urged the members from the School Board in attendance to move forward with replacing the roof at the school. It needs to be done. School Board Member Kevin Wessler said that they will be applying for funding for the job.

**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 4-2026 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk