

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 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 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 APRIL 14, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the April 14, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 2026 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the May 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:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Scott Winneberger reported that the City's Emergency Operations Plan is due again this August. He attended a workshop out of state last week about this. He is starting to work on it and is hoping to have it submitted by July.

Scott also discussed the status of the new cameras that will be installed around the park area and Fireman's pond.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for April 2026 showed a total amount received of \$19,038.02.

The Tax Collector's report for April 2026 showed a total amount received of \$191,186.44.

The Chief Financial Officer provided a Budget to Actual Report Through April 30, 2026.

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that all employees are doing a good job and everything is going well.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the new floating dock has been installed and they completed the new lifeguard stand. It was brought to his attention that more sand is needed at the beach.

Recreation:

Mayor Giberson reported that two beach badge attendants and two lifeguards have been hired.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that their Spring Dinner was a success. The Fire House siren that was damaged in the February snowstorm has been replaced.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met on Monday, May 11th to discuss the Master Plan. She noted that when the plan is submitted, it cannot be labeled as an update, but rather that it is a reexamination. They were advised that the number of affordable housing units for Port Republic is now 50. The Planner has some suggestions on how we can proceed with this. Mayor Giberson has contacted Tax Assessor Bill Johnson to see if he can be of assistance.

Council discussed a bill that is in the works that addresses accessory dwellings that can count towards affordable housing.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

No report.

Land Use:

Council President Giberson reported that the Land Use Committee, as well as Mayor Giberson, met with Wil Nieves from Cultivate Power regarding an interest his company has in 400 English Creek Road for a community solar project.

A resolution to authorize the advertising of Request for Qualifications and Proposals will be listed for approval during this meeting. If passed, Attorney Kaufmann will then prepare the Request for Qualifications and Proposals for a solar project at the Redevelopment Area of 400 English Creek Road. This will allow Cultivate Power to bring forth a formal proposal to Mayor and Council along with allowing other companies to come with their proposals.

School Finance Committee:

Councilmember Ropiecki reported that Mayor and Council received a report from Port Republic School showing the enrollment numbers. There is also a listing of the staff.

Council briefly spoke about the high schools that the children from Port Republic School are able to go and how that is determined.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, addressed Mayor and Council regarding the upcoming Jersey Genesis Triathlon that will be taking place on Saturday, May 30th. Mayor and Council thanked Bill for his hard work in organizing this event.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Priya Jain, Commissioner of the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Regarding NJDOT Fiscal Year 2027 State Aid Program – dated April 17, 2026 (*grant application deadline July 1, 2026*)

Councilmember Allgeyer will speak with Public Works to see if there is a road they recommend applying for.

- Letter from Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive, Regarding Assistance During the 2026 Jersey Genesis Triathlon – dated April 30, 2026

Acknowledged

- Letter from Brian Tortorete, Senior Project Manager from Envirotactics Regarding Access to City-Owned Property (Block 6, Lot 51) – dated May 1, 2026

Acknowledged – a resolution will be added (61-2026) for Council to vote on.

RESOLUTIONS:

50-2026 Authorizing Application for the FY2024 & 2025 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 50-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

51-2026 Resolution Urging State Leaders to Implement Fair and Equitable Reforms to Mitigate the Unsustainable Increases in Health Benefit Premiums for Public Sector Employees

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Riegel and carried to adopt Resolution 51-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

52-2026 Resolution Calling for the Restoration of Energy Tax Receipts and Increased Municipal Aid to Provide Real Property Tax Relief

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 52-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

53-2026 Appointment of Qualified Purchasing Agent (*William Montag*)

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 53-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

54-2026 Correcting Error in Resolution 79-2025

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 54-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

55-2026 Final Work Change Order #1 (Final) - 2024 MA-00284-LA-2024 MA –
Reconstruction of Adams Avenue

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 55-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

56-2026 Awarding Contract to Arawak Paving Co., Inc. for the Reconstruction of Pomona
Avenue

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Crawford and carried to adopt Resolution 56-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

57-2026 Authorizing City Clerk to Advertise Request for Qualifications and Proposals for
Redevelopment Project Consisting of a Principal Solar Energy Production Facility

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 57-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

58-2026 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of
the City of Port Republic Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948)
Regarding NJDOT LA-2025 MA – Reconstruction of Pomona Avenue (\$229,190.00)

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 58-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

59-2026 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding NJDOT LA-2026 MA – Reconstruction of Pomona Avenue (\$231,023.00)

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 59-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

60-2026 Granting Raffle Licenses to Port Republic Heritage Society, a NJ Nonprofit Corporation

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 60-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

61-2026 Authorizing Access Agreement to Municipally Owned Property (Block 6, Lot 51) with Envirotactics as Part of an Environmental Investigation at Former Port General Store

On the motion of Councilmember Crawford, seconded by Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 61-2026.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Turner

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1st Reading/Introduction:

None

ORDINANCES – 2nd Reading/Adoption:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Proposed Trailer Parking Fees

We will continue to look further into this.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Interest in Purchasing of City-Owned Property

The City was contacted by an interested applicant to purchase property. He is an adjoining property owner. City Attorney Kaufmann will draft an Ordinance for introduction at the June City Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT/PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported the following:

- On Saturday, May 16th from 9 am until noon, the Green Team will be hosting a Declutter Event. There will be a drop-off for clothing donations and a safe disposal of over-the-counter and prescription drugs.
- The Citywide Yard Sale will be on June 13th. A huge thank you to Trish Zatorski and Gretchen Halfpenny who are organizing this event. The funds raised will benefit the Heritage Society.
- The City was contacted by Senator Cory Booker's office and the City's Mill Street Dam project made it through the first phase of funding for the project. We should be hearing further from them soon.
- We are still in the process of planning Community Day for Saturday, June 20th. As of now, 6 fire trucks from Port and local communities will be participating in the parade, we will be having reenactors, and much more! The next planning meeting will be Thursday, June 4th at 10 am at City Hall if anyone wants to help plan.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 5-2026 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 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk