

CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
6:30 P.M. MAY 14, 2024
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Donna Riegel, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner (arrived at 6:35 pm)

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Doris Bugdon

MAYOR: Monica Giberson

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Kimberly A. Campellone, RMC

ATTORNEY: William 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 MARCH 12, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the March 12, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Turner

ABSTAIN: Ropiecki

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 2024 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the May 2024 Bill List.

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Turner

ABSTAIN:

MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:

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

YES: Allgeyer, Giberson, Hawn, Riegel, Ropiecki

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon, Turner

ABSTAIN:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Emergency Management:

Public Safety Director Scott Winneberger reported that there was one incident of doing donuts in the parking area near the tennis and basketball courts in April. He was able to identify the driver and he made a report to the State Police.

Administrative/Personnel:

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

The Tax Collector's April 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$114,687.91.

The Municipal Clerk's report for April 2024 showed a total amount received of \$9,558.94.

Council President Giberson shared that the committee held a meeting regarding the positions that needed to be filled. There are resolutions for these appointments listed later in the meeting.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the department has been working on cleaning storm drains and cutting grass. Everything is running smoothly.

Councilmember Turner arrived (6:35 pm)

Recreation:

Councilmember Turner reported that the Lifeguards and Beach Badge Attendants have been hired for the season. Beach badge sales are going wonderfully. They are looking forward to a great summer.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that everything is running smoothly at the Fire Department. The dinner will be on Saturday, May 18th. The Fire Department is having a meeting this evening regarding solar panels.

Planning Board:

Councilmember Riegel reported that the Planning Board met last night. They reviewed the Redevelopment Plan for 400 English Creek Road and found it to be in compliance with the City's Master Plan. They also had a variance for Bridge, which had a non-conforming lot next to the Crevling property. It was found out that if you have a non-conforming lot prior to zoning laws without a house on it and you pay taxes on it for 45 years you can still build on it without the proper setbacks, proper frontage, or a paved street. The City cannot stop this and could end up in litigation if they do.

Construction/Code Enforcement:

Construction Official Kevin Cain submitted a report for the month of April. During the month, a total of 7 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 1 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New

- 0 Additions
- 0 Zoning Permit
- 0 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 1

There are no current code enforcement issues.

Senior Services:

Council President Giberson stated that Councilmember Bugdon is not present this evening but wanted to share that she always does a great job getting out her senior aides and the City appreciates all her hard work.

Land Use:

Councilmember Giberson reported that the Planning Board found that the Redevelopment Plan for 400 English Creek Road is in compliance with the Master Plan. The second reading and public hearing of the ordinance for the Redevelopment Plan will be at the June 11, 2024, City Council Meeting.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Bill Smallwood, 122 Clarks Landing Road, explained to Mayor and Council what will be going on for preparation and the day of the Jersey Genesis Triathlon scheduled for Saturday, June 8th. He reported that the Port Republic Athletic Foundation recently paid to have the baseball batting cage redone. The baseball teams are doing well and have their new shed here now.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2025 State Aid Program (deadline for grant applicant submissions is July 1st)
Councilmember Allgeyer will work with the Public Works Committee and Engineer Matt Doran to decide which road should be applied for.
- Resignation letter from Chief Financial Officer Jenna Kelly effective June 1, 2024
Acknowledged

RESOLUTIONS:

53-2024 Resolution Cancelling Outstanding Checks from the Current Fund

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 53-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon
ABSTAIN:

54-2024 Resolution Change Order #1 Mill Street from Main Street to Clarks Landing Road

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 54-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

55-2024 Resolution Calling for the Modernization of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPRA) and the Swift Passage of S-2930/A-4045

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 55-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

56-2024 Resolution Appointing Brandy M. Blevin as Municipal Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics for the City of Port Republic Beginning on June 3, 2024

Attorney Kaufmann explained that by statute this is a 3-year appointment. Upon reappointment, the City Clerk would obtain tenure during the second term.

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 56-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

Oath of Office for Brandy M. Blevin administered by City Clerk Kimberly Campellone

57-2024 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding the American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant (\$53,000.00)

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 57-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

58-2024 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding the 2021 Recycling Tonnage Grant (\$2,006.76)

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 58-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

59-2024 Resolution Authoring the Cancellation of Grant Approved Reserves

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 59-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

60-2024 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Mill Street NJDOT 2022 Grant (\$42,402.49)

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 60-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

61-2024 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Port Republic Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) Regarding Mill Street NJDOT 2023 Grant (\$49,107.51)

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 61-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

62-2024 Resolution Appointing a Deputy Clerk (*namely Lisa Morris*)

Attorney Kaufmann explained that this would be to fill the current Deputy's unexpired term, until December 31, 2024. This is an annual appointment done at the annual reorganization meeting.

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 62-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

63-2024 Resolution Appointing a Municipal Chief Financial Officer (*namely Amy Stover*)

Attorney Kaufmann explained is a 4-year appointment and will date back to January 1st of 2024.

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 63-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

64-2024 Resolution All Bids Received on Contract to Reconstruct Park Avenue Tennis & Basketball Courts and Authorizing City Clerk to Readvertise for Bids

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 64-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT: Bugdon

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION:

NONE

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING/ADOPTION:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Councilmember Allgeyer questioned the status of the neighboring property's fence being on the Fire Department's property. Council President Giberson stated this needs to be looked into. Clerk Campellone stated that she would write a memo to Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Cain.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Port Republic Volunteer Fire Department Dinner – Saturday, May 18, 2024, 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Jersey Genesis Triathlon – Saturday, June 8, 2024
Council thanked Bill Smallwood for his hard work and dedication.

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson reported:

- At the Planning Board Meeting on Monday, May 13th, the topic of how can the City monitor all roads in Port Republic, including private roads. We need to make sure they are safe. Mayor Giberson asked if the Fire Department could drive around and survey the roadways and report back to the City. Scott Winneberger recommended that the Code Enforcement Officer should do this and report back to Mayor and Council.
- Last month they held an Earth Day Celebration. It went well and we will probably continue to do it in the future.
- On June 1st the City will be hosting a party to celebrate Kim's retirement at the pavilion.
- June 1st will be the City-Wide Yard Sale.
- Port Community Day will be held on Saturday, June 15th. The City Attorney's firm and the City Engineer's Office have contributed funds so that the City can provide free pony rides during the event.
- The City of Brigantine has sent a letter regarding their disapproval of the 157 wind powered turbines that are going to be going along the Atlantic Coast. They are asking the City to do a resolution at their next meeting to ask that this not be done.
- The Creative Team is working on the 2025 calendar. If anyone would like to advertise in that, please let her know.
- She thanked Clerk Campellone for her years of service and expressed how much she has enjoyed working with her.
- She thanked Deputy Clerk Blevin and said she could not think of someone better to fill Clerk Campellone's shoes. She also thanked her for all the work done on the Special April Election.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES 5-2024 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk