

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2024 – 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 to close the workshop portion of the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven Allgeyer, Doris Bugdon, Roger Giberson, Eugene Hawn, Donna Riegel, Jeffrey Ropiecki, Michael Turner

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:**

**MAYOR:** Monica Giberson

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

**ATTORNEY:** Manny Sanfilippo, 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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the September 10, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Riegel

**MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 2024 BILL LIST:**

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to approve the October 2024 Bill List.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Bugdon

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Bugdon

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mayor Giberson reported that the Heritage Society held an event on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> in which the State Police were present and they did a really good job.

### **Administrative/Personnel:**

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

The Municipal Clerk's report for September 2024 showed a total amount received of \$5,996.09.

The Tax Collector's September 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$42,794.50.

The Chief Financial Officer provided a report showing the budgeted amounts to actual amounts expended through September 30, 2024.

Council President Giberson thanked Clerk Blevin and said how much they all appreciate her hard work.

### **Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that he inspected the side of City Hall where the siding was recently replaced. The painting by Public Works is going well. It will be needing a second coat. While looking at the building he notated that the back door needs to be replaced. The DPW installed a cement retaining wall to protect the new fence being installed at the beach.

The bed of the white pickup truck is barely hanging on. He thinks it would be best to budget next year to at least replace the bed of the truck to keep it going for another couple of years.

Councilmember Allgeyer questioned if there was a plan for getting extra help for the Public Works employees with the events or anything. Council President Giberson asked if they had an issue manning the events or working too many hours. Councilmember Allgeyer responded that they are doing the cutting and trying to keep up, but they don't want to fall behind. Mayor Giberson stated that for the Fall Festival they only needed to drive the truck for the parade. She said she can handle the trash. The other upcoming event is the Tree Lighting. She said we could also handle the trash for that event. She said that she knows that the department would like to receive overtime for working these events. Council President Giberson responded that it is not an issue of paying them overtime to work the events, it is an issue of if they want to work the events or not. Councilmember Allgeyer said if he is around for the Tree Lighting, he will help with the trash. Council President Giberson said if the department does not want to work then we can find volunteers to help.

Mayor Giberson added that while they were on the topic of the maintenance of the building, they also need to look into the lighting in Council Chambers. The lights are sagging and they may need to have supports placed in the ceiling.

**Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that the Fall Festival is coming up on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Giberson also spoke about the Duct Tape Boat Regatta that took place on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. This year we had 27 boats that participated, compared to 12 last year. Everything went smoothly thanks to Valerie Kozlowski. She also thanked Councilmembers Hawn and Turner for helping and Clerk Blevin.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that they had one call in September and one call in October so far. The Fire Department's solar project is on hold because Atlantic Electric is not taking on any more solar projects. The Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Board:**

No report

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

Construction Official Richard Stevens submitted reports for the months of August and September.

During the month of August, a total of 12 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 4 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 2 Zoning Permit
- 1 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 7

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 800 block of Chestnut Neck Road – trailer in street. Notice of violation was sent.

During the month of September a total of 7 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 0 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 1 Zoning Permit (fence)
- 3 CO Inspection for Resale (2 resale / 1 rental)
- Total of 4

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 233 Main Street – PM violations. Notice of violation sent.
- 291 Old New York Road – dead trees. Notice of violation sent.

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that she had one request which was fulfilled. She will be working with Clerk Blevin to make resources for seniors from Atlantic County available in City Hall and on the City’s website.

**Land Use:**

Council President Giberson reported that we received two proposals for the Redevelopment of the 400 English Creek Road Redevelopment Area. This will be discussed later in this meeting.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, stated that he had read somewhere that if the COVID funds the City received are not committed to something by a certain date they would need to be sent back. He questioned how the City was responding to that. Mayor Giberson responded that the funding we have was going to be used on the drainpipe job, however the job will cost more than the funding we have available. Clerk Blevin added that the funding must be obligated by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The CFO believes that if the funds are inserted into our budget, which they have been, we are in compliance. Councilmember Riegel asked how much funding we have. Clerk Blevin responded that we have approximately \$100,000.00.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 2024 Final Report from the United States Department of Agriculture

*Councilmember Bugdon suggested we continue this service next year to keep the population down.*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

89-2024      Rejecting All Bids Received on Contract to Install New Park Avenue Stormwater Outfall Pipe

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to adopt Resolution 89-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

**ABSTAIN:**

90-2024 Authorizing City Clerk to Advertise for Receipt of Proposals for City Engineer Contract

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Riegel and carried to adopt Resolution 90-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING/INTRODUCTION:**

08-2024 Establishing Office of City Engineer

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to introduce Ordinance 08-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**ORDINANCES – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING/ADOPTION:**

06-2024 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 10-2005, as Codified in Chapter 201, Recreation Areas and Parks, Article I, Recreational Area, §201-4, Recreation Facility Fees

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

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

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Ordinance 06-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

07-2024 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 160, Land Use, and Chapter 241, Stormwater Management in Pinelands Area, of the Code of the City of Port Republic, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey

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

Bob Haviland, 316 English Creek Road, asked if the ordinance could be explained. Council President Giberson responded that the ordinance is so that the City can be in compliance with the rules and regulations of The Pinelands.

Hearing nothing more from the public, Councilmember Bugdon moved, seconded of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to close the public hearing.

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Ordinance 07-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Redevelopment of the 400 English Creek Road (Block 24, Lot 34) Redevelopment Area – RFP's received October 1, 2024

*Council President Giberson stated that two proposals were received. Attorney Kaufmann has reviewed both proposals and they are satisfactory. The next step will be a meeting between the Land Use Committee and each company. The Land Use Committee will report back to Council and make their recommendation at the November 12<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Fall Fest & Movie Night will be on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm until 8 pm
- Halloween / Trick-or-Treat will be on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm until 8 pm

*Discussion ensued and the Mayor and Council agreed to close Main Street off to traffic between Church Street and Old New York Road. Mayor Giberson will contact New Jersey State Police.*

Council President Giberson asked Councilmembers Riegel and Turner to work together on researching property that may be ideal for a cannabis grow facility in town. He specifically mentioned the piece of property across from the old Port Store.

### **MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:**

Mayor Giberson reported:

- The Port Republic City 2025 calendar and Port Republic City Cookbook are on sale and available at City Hall. The sale of both of these items helps support the events the City hosts without spending taxpayer money.
- The Port Republic Green Team is looking to add additional signage at the Transfer Station. Council agreed this is a good idea.

Councilmember Turner shared that he and Jake Nass donated the Port Republic Boy Scout trailer and everything in it to the Cub Scouts. He thanked everyone who has donated and supported the Boy Scouts over the years.

Councilmember Turner questioned if the COVID funding could be utilized towards the renovation and upkeep of the baseball field. Mayor Giberson responded that unfortunately the funds cannot be used towards recreation costs.

Councilmember Bugdon shared with Mayor and Council a photo she found of the drainage pipe.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

ES 10-2024 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk