

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 10, 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:** William J. 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 NOVEMBER 12, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 12, 2024, CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES:**

On the motion of Councilmember Bugdon, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the November 12, 2024, City Council Executive Meeting Minutes.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

**MOTION TO PAY ALL SIGNED BILLS:**

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**2024 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Mayor Giberson presented the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award to Bill and Kathy Smallwood.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Police/Emergency Management:**

Scott Winneberger reported that a search and rescue operation took place in town over the past weekend. Although it was not favorable in its ending, it was a successful operation. About 12 different agencies assisted in the operation. He encouraged the public to sign up for our emergency notification system because that is the City's way of communicating with the public when we have emergency situations that occur.

Council President Giberson thanked Mr. Winneberger for his hard work in the recovery effort.

**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 November 2024 showed a total amount received of \$12,143.64.

The Tax Collector's November 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$800,057.40.

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

Council President Giberson stated the City employees are doing a great job.

**Public Works:**

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that the department has been working hard. They removed the tree where the pirate ship playground will be going. They hung the new signs around the recreational areas. They replaced the swings. The chipping of the brush pile is expected to start on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. They do not expect any large purchases, only fuel and some water.

**Recreation:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported that we had a wonderful tree lighting event. She thanked Mayor Giberson for getting the school children involved. She thanked all of Council for their contribution of homemade cookies. She also thanked Clerk Blevin and Deputy Clerk Morris for running the concession stand.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilmember Hawn reported that this past month was slightly busier, and they had a few more calls than last month. The department participated in the search and rescue operation over the past weekend. The Fire Department will be bringing Santa around town on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, with a rain date of Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Planning Board:**

No report

**Construction/Code Enforcement:**

Construction Official Richard Stevens submitted reports for the months of October and November.

During the month of October, a total of 11 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 1 Alterations
- 0 Demos
- 1 New (pool house)
- 1 Additions
- 4 Zoning Permit
- 1 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 8

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 80 Blakes Lane – UCC penalty – working without permits – pending permits.

During the month of November a total of 3 inspections were done, and the following permits were issued:

- 1 Alterations (cell tower)
- 0 Demos
- 0 New
- 0 Additions
- 1 Zoning Permit
- 1 CO Inspection for Resale
- Total of 3

The following code enforcement issues were notated:

- 800 block of Chestnut Neck Road – camping trailer removed – NFA.

**Senior Services:**

Councilmember Bugdon reported she had no requests this past month.

**Land Use:**

Council President Giberson stated that they will be discussing the two proposals received for the redevelopment of 400 English Creek Road later in the meeting during Executive Session.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Memorandum from James M. Rutala Associates, LLC Regarding NJDCA – Shared Services Implementation Grants

*Acknowledged*

- Letter from Matthew DeNafo, President of ACUA Regarding 2025 Rates and Fees

*Acknowledged*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

92-2024      Transfer Resolution

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 92-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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

None

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

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (funds must be obligated/encumbered by December 31, 2024)

*Council President Giberson explained to Council that a list was provided of items we are planning to use the funds on. Any unspent funds will be given to the Fire Department.*

- Reconstruction of the Tennis, Pickleball & Basketball Courts at Park Avenue Rebid

*Council discussed the two bids received and made the decision to award to the lowest bidder in an amount not to exceed \$457,487.82.*

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Turner and carried to adopt Resolution 93-2024, awarding contract to Swift and Son, Inc. for Park Avenue tennis, pickleball and basketball courts reconstruction.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2025 Reorganization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, followed by Regular City Council Meeting

**MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:**

Mayor Giberson presented a proclamation to Councilwoman Doris Bugdon honoring her for thirty-nine years of dedicated service, devotion and commitment to the City of Port Republic and Proclaiming December 10, 2024, Doris Bugdon Day.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSON:**

ES 12-2024 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. 2025-2027 City Engineer Proposals
2. Proposals for the Redevelopment of the 400 English Creek (Block 24, Lot 34) Redevelopment Area

Attorney Kaufmann informed the public that at the close of executive session there is a possibility that official action may be taken.

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adopt Resolution ES 12-2024.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded by Councilmember Bugdon and carried to close executive session.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adopt Resolution 94-2024, designating Scarborough Marine Group as the Conditional Redeveloper for 400 English Creek Road Redevelopment Area.

YES: Allgeyer, Bugdon, Giberson, Hawn

NO: Riegel, Turner

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Ropiecki

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilmember Turner, seconded of Councilmember Bugdon and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk