

**CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2025 – 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, David Crawford, 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.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE:

Steven Allgeyer, Ward I, term commencing 1/1/2025, term expiring 12/31/2027

Oath of Office administered by Mayor Monica Giberson

Steven Allgeyer, Council President Pro Tempore, 1 year term

Oath of Office administered by Mayor Monica Giberson

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 10, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Crawford

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 10, 2024, CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES:

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to approve the December 10, 2024, City Council Executive Meeting Minutes.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Crawford

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2025 BILL LIST:

On the motion of Councilmember Ropiecki, seconded of Councilmember Hawn and carried to approve the January 2025 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 of Councilmember Ropiecki and carried to pay all signed bills.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Personnel/Administrative: Jeff Ropiecki, Mike Turner, Dave Crawford

Public Works: Steven Allgeyer, Gene Hawn, Roger Giberson

Recreation: Mike Turner, Gene Hawn, Dave Crawford

Police/Emergency Management: Roger Giberson, Gene Hawn, Steven Allgeyer

Fire and Ambulance: Gene Hawn, Steven Allgeyer, Roger Giberson

Clean Communities: Brandy Blevin, Mike Turner, Mayor Giberson

Land Use Committee: Roger Giberson, Steven Allgeyer, Gene Hawn

Revenue Committee (new committee which will research uses for City-Owned Property near Port Store (Block 6, Lot 51), cannabis information and liquor license information): Mike Turner, Donna Riegel, Jeff Ropiecki

Doris Bugdon will act as the City's Senior Advocate

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. They also received the 2024 Annual Tax Collector report.

The Municipal Clerk's report for December 2024 showed a total amount received of \$643.50.

The Tax Collector's December 2024 report showed a total amount received of \$123,367.79.

Council President Giberson thanked Clerk Blevin for doing a great job and stated they are thankful to have her.

Public Works:

Councilmember Allgeyer reported that everything is running smoothly. They did a great job with the roads in the snowstorm Sunday into Monday. On Saturday the 5th Councilmember Allgeyer received a call saying that there were two dump trailers at the Transfer Station with four guys unloading a lot of debris. Scott Winneberger will take a look at the cameras and let Council know what he finds.

Recreation:

Councilmember Turner reported that we now have a beautiful pirate ship playground.

Fire and Ambulance:

Councilmember Hawn reported that December was a slow month. Everything is going well.

Planning Board:

No report

Construction/Code Enforcement:

No report

Land Use:

Attorney Kaufmann shared that he forwarded the redevelopment agreement and lease to John Ridgway, attorney for Scarborough Marine Group. He made sure that there is now a crystal-clear provision that if there is to be an entry into an agreement with another municipality that the calculations are not to pertain to their additional fill rent. He also added that the City will not accept less than 60%, but at each deal we will have a separate agreement and negotiation. Scarborough Marine Group has until March 1st to respond. Clerk Blevin will forward the correspondence sent to Mr. Ridgway to all of Council.

OPEN TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Council President Giberson asked Kevin Wessler, Jr. how the budget is looking for Port Republic School. He asked where they are with the improvements to the building. Mr. Wessler explained that they are working on the bond process now and the referendum question will

appear on the 2025 General Election. With the school doing the bond the State takes on a third of the cost. Right now, they are estimating between \$700,000 and \$750,000.

They also discussed the choice students and whether all seats were filled. They did miss one spot this school year, but they will all be filled for next school year.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC PORTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

39-2025 Self-Examination of Budget Resolution

On the motion of Councilmember Riegel, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to adopt Resolution 39-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING/INTRODUCTION:

01-2025 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40:4-45:14)

On the motion of Councilmember Hawn, seconded of Councilmember Allgeyer and carried to introduce Ordinance 01-2025.

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

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCES – 2ND READING/ADOPTION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- FY2025 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (*deadline to apply – January 31, 2025*)

The Recreation Committee will meet to discuss the improvements they wish to apply to the grant for.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Set Date for January Budget Workshop – Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm

MAYORS REPORT/PROCLAMTIONS:

Mayor Giberson questioned Attorney Kaufmann on the deadline for Affordable Housing and the mandated tree ordinance from the State. Attorney Kaufmann will look into the Affordable Housing, and he has not yet received anything about the tree ordinance.

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 Turner and carried to close the public portion.

EXECUTIVE SESSON:

ES 1-2025 Authorization to Enter into Executive Session Regarding:

1. N/A

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Allgeyer, seconded of Councilmember Crawford and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy M. Blevin, RMC
Municipal Clerk