

**APRIL 5, 2018, COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM
BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led all present in the “Pledge of Allegiance”. He then announced that this meeting has been advertised and posted in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act”.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore and Mayor Wolk present. Commissioner Tovinsky had an excused absence. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Joe Federici and Clerk Terry Shannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the March 1, 2018, commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$826,797.92 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Wolk-yes.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk announced that Ord. 02-18, Repealing and Replacing Article III, Entitled “Excavations” of Chapter 369, Entitled “Streets, Sidewalks and Driveway Aprons,” and Section 18 of Chapter 165 of the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Entitled “Fees-Streets and Sidewalks”, is being introduced on first reading this evening. The first reading of Ordinance 02-18 was approved on a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced this ordinance will be considered for adoption following proper notice and a public hearing to be held at next month’s commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Wolk read the following resolution for approval:

29-18 Resolution Deeming Advisable the Sale of the Mount Ephraim Wastewater Collection System and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the Sale of Same

On a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, the resolution was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk read a prepared statement explaining that the borough is exploring the possibility of selling the sewer system due to the age of the system and the cost of replacing it. He reported that our engineers have prepared an extensive bid package and if we get bids that we feel are in the best interest of the borough, we will then introduce an ordinance for sale of the system and then a referendum question will be on the November ballot allowing the voters to vote on the sale of the system.

Mayor Wolk then asked the Clerk to read the Resolution Consent Agenda which she read as follows:

- 30-18 Cancellling Taxes Due to a Veterans Exemption
- 31-18 Authorizing the Borough to Apply for CDBG Funding from Program Year 2018
- 32-18 Renewal of the Shared Service Agreement with the Regional Fire Alliance
- 33-18 Authorizing Advertisement of RFQ's for Selection of Professionals under a Fair and Open Process
- 34-18 Authorizing Submission of the 2017 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
- 35-18 Introduction of the 2018 Municipal Budget
- 36-18 Authorizing Self-Examination of the 2018 Municipal Budget

On a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Wolk-yes. Resolutions were approved.

Mayor Wolk reported that regarding the introduction of the 2018 Budget, there will be no municipal tax increase. He thanked everyone for their work on the Budget. The Budget documents will be available on the borough website.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department report for March 2018 reporting they had a total of 38 calls and he read highlights of the incidents. The calls were mostly alarms as they did not have any working fires. He then read highlights of the March 2018 monthly report from the Mount Ephraim Police Department reporting they had 659 calls and assigned 317 case numbers and he read highlights of the calls. They had 33 adult arrests and he read highlights of the arrests including three DWI, three hindering apprehension, four for possession of drug paraphernalia, 13 possession of CDS, three shoplifting and two simple assault. There were four juvenile arrests and 16 out-of-town warrants were served. They issued 298 motor vehicle summonses. Commissioner Gilmore was covering for Commissioner Tovinsky and read the Public Works report but it was the same report that was read at the prior meeting.

Engineer Erika Vardaxis from Federici and Akin reported the plans for the Northmont Avenue DOT project have been completed and submitted to DOT. We expect to go out to bid this summer. We met with Conrail at 4th Avenue and they intend to upgrade the crossing later this year.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for March, 2018, reporting total receipts of \$297,431.85 and \$50,764.06 in lien redemptions. Miss Mount Ephraim contest will be May 23 at 7:30 at MEPRI Hall. We will be here again April 24 at 3pm for the workshop and May 3 at 7pm for the commission meeting. The public hearing on the budget will be at that meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record.

Theresa Ingram from 15 2nd Avenue spoke about the Mount Ephraim Dodge properties. When they received their approvals from the Planning Board, they were supposed to landscape the lots and nothing has been done 13 years later. It was supposed to be for the improvement of

the neighborhood but that never happened. They are parking trucks too close and way beyond the buffer zone. There is fencing that fell down and was never repaired. They did not do any of the things they were supposed to do and we are very frustrated. She wanted to know what can be done to make them do all the things they were supposed to do. Chief Conte said he spoke to Tara about this and she is going to pull the file and speak with them about what needs to be done. Ms. Ingram said she had made many complaints to them about the parking but got no resolution. The property does not have to look the way it does. She presented pictures to the governing body and it was clear they are parking in the setback. Solicitor Riso added we will meet with the management and make them aware of what needs to be done. If we don't get results, then we will have to go to the next step and issue violations. The Ingrams have been more than reasonable. Mayor Wolk said we will get on this right away. She then asked how the sewer billing will work if someone takes over the system. Riso said the way the proposal is written, the rates will be frozen for the first two years and then they are limited to 3% per year for the next three years. After that, they would be able to increase rates with permission from the BPU.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, the public portion was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon
Municipal Clerk