

**MAY 2, 2019, 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 with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the “Open Public Meetings Act” statement.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Doug Akin and Clerk Terry Shannon.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Commissioner Gilmore, along with Chief Conte, presented a plaque to Sgt. Michael Beach for his retirement from the Mount Ephraim Police Department. Michael’s friends and family were in attendance and gave him a big round of applause. They then all left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the March 20, 2019, special meeting, the April 4, 2019 commission meeting and the January 29, 2019, caucus meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,174,666.33 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gilmore, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinances are on for public hearing and adoption this evening:

2019-05 Amending Chapter 218 of the Borough Code Entitled “Hotels and Motels”

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the second reading of the ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on this ordinance and asked for any questions or comments on these ordinances. Chief Conte explained that our current ordinance limits how long people can stay at the motel but does not account for the owners who live there. This amendment corrects that. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing on this ordinance was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, Ordinance 2019-05 was finally adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the resolutions that are to be approved by Consent Agenda. She read them as follows:

- 29-19 Authorizing the Budget to be Read by Title at Public Hearing
- 30-19 Designating Jim Beebe as Employer Representative for the CDL Program
- 31-19 Authorizing Agreement with Cooper Employee Assistance Program
- 32-19 Amending the Personnel Policy Pertaining to Employee Healthcare Contributions
- 33-19 Approving 2019 Mercantile Licenses

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on the Budget and asked that you state your name for the record. He explained that for the second year in a row, there is no municipal tax increase. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing on the Budget was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, Resolution 34-19, Resolution to Adopt the 2019 Municipal Budget, was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. The Budget was adopted.

Mayor Wolk thanked everyone for their work on the Budget, especially our financial consultant Rich Schwab.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department report from April, 2019, reporting they had 778 calls for the month and 3311 year-to-date. They assigned 889 case numbers for the month. He read highlights of the offenses and reported they had 42 adult arrests and two juvenile arrests. They served 19 out-of-town warrants and he reported on the training conducted for the month. Regarding traffic summonses, they issued 71 moving violations, five parking offenses and 194 other. He then read highlights from the Municipal Court report for the month reporting \$20,691 in fines received. He did not have the Fire Company report as their offices are being remodeled. He also reported that the Fire Company, in conjunction with the Borough of Oaklyn and Audubon departments and MEPRI Ambulance conducted a prom night exercise at the high school and he is getting good reports on the exercise.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for April, 2019, the Construction office issued six permits for a total of \$833 and zero vacant property registrations. They had 14 resale CO's and collected \$1,680. He then reported that for Public Works, single stream recycling was 62,360 pounds and trash tonnage was 168 for a cost of \$13,111 to the Camden plant. They handled six sewer calls. The sale of the sewer system to NJAW is moving forward and they will be going before the BPU in May. DPW got the fields ready for opening day, handled Ales on the Rails and did concrete work at Baird and Kings Highway. He added that he went to the Audubon school board meeting last night and they owe us \$200,000 that will be credited to next year. We are paying \$14,442 per kid

to Audubon. School Choice is only \$9,740 so we are paying more than School Choice and our people are not happy about it.

Engineer Doug Akin from Federici and Akin reported on the following items:

- DOT Local Aid project Northmont Avenue is essentially complete and we are coordinating installation of speed humps;
- James Street NJDOT Local Aid project will also be out for bid this summer with construction planned for fall;
- DOT Discretionary Aid project Bell Road drainage is designed and we will put it out for bid end of summer with construction also planned for fall;
- NJDOT Aid was awarded to the Borough for Idora and Charles and we anticipate designing this winter and construction for the summer of 2020.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for April 2019, reporting total receipts of \$2,045,474.26 and \$13,711.30 in lien redemptions. He thanked everyone who participated in "Ales on the Rails" and made it a success. Miss Mount Ephraim contest is the 21st and the municipal election is the 14th. He thanked Commissioner Tovinsky for attending the school board meeting. If you have a question about the schools, that is where you should go. Commissioner Tovinsky added that the school board has 1.2 million debt and they cut 10-12 teachers and some of them were good teachers. That means classes will be bigger. Mayor Wolk then said we will now open the meeting to the public adding that we have a couple special things we want to do as this is Commissioner Gilmore's last public meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Patti Shaw, 111 Grant Avenue, wanted to talk about the kids on bikes. She wanted to know if there is land the town has where we can establish a bike track/skate park for the kids so we can keep them off the street. They need someplace that is for kids their age—not a swing set. Mayor Wolk responded that we have been discussing the kids on bikes challenging people in the roadway and Chief Conte said they have been aggressive with it. The problem is we are limited with land for a skate park. Commissioner Tovinsky said American Water is trying to purchase land around the pump stations. Shaw asked if there are any recreations grants coming up we could apply for. We don't have anything in our community for this age group. George Gies from Lincoln Avenue responded about the various sports we offer. He said he had spoken to Ms. Shaw previously and suggested she come to a meeting. Commissioner Tovinsky added we just got grants for Shining Star Park and Norcross Park. We first need land before we can apply for a grant. We can't give you an answer tonight but this is something we will consider for the future. Ms. Shaw offered to be part of a committee to look at this problem. Mayor Wolk asked her to give her contact info to the Clerk.

Mike Rossano from Green Avenue asked about the speed humps on Northmont and Commissioner Gilmore responded there will be two between the railroad tracks and Market. He then asked about the pedestrian crossing signs on Kings Highway and Chief Conte responded we just got a safety grant so he will coordinate with Public Works to get them installed. Rossano then asked about stop signs at Pennsylvania and Fifth. Commissioner Tovinsky said there are dips there so you can't fly through that intersection. There were never stop signs at that intersection. Tovinsky added that we approved free-range on the chickens as long as the yard is fenced.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor Wolk then spoke about Commissioner Gilmore explaining he retired from the police department after 20 years and has served on the commission for the last 12 years. He asked Commissioner Gilmore to come down from the dais for a presentation. He presented him with a plaque in recognition of his outstanding leadership over the past 12 years. The audience gave Andy a well-deserved standing ovation.

Commissioner Gilmore said that 45 of his 50 adult years were spent in public service for his nation and for Mount Ephraim. He believes he always made the best decisions for the Borough. We got the Fire Company a new firehouse. He thanked the Fire Company and the Auxiliary for their years of service. He thanked Rich Schwab for all he has done; former Chief Brian Beppel for his leadership and current Chief Conte for his as well. He also thanked Brian for stepping up and running the MEPRI Ambulance service. He thanked Paul Bibik for his many years of service as court bailiff and for attending every borough meeting. He thanked Doug and Joe from Federici and Akin for all they do for the Borough. He thanked Eric Riso for calming him down and for his friendship; he thanked Clerk Shannon for her service as well. To all the people who are running, he wished them good luck and hopes the voters vote wisely. Thank you and it has been my privilege to serve the Borough of Mount Ephraim.

Rich Schwab rose and said he has been in this business for over 40 years and Andy is one of the best. He thanked Andy for everything and asked him to stop in to see him from time to time.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk