

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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 Gies, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Erika Vardaxis and Clerk Terry Shannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the July 23, 2019, caucus meeting and the August 1, 2019, commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,381,059.82 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gies, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-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:

- 57-19 Appointing a Resiliency Program Officer for the Police Department
- 58-19 Amending the Police Department Policies Handbook
- 59-19 Authorizing Purchase of Fingerprint Scanning ID Equipment under State Contract
- 60-19 Renewing Membership in the Camden County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 61-19 Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation in the 2019 Municipal Budget
- 62-19 Authorizing Liens against Certain Properties in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
- 63-19 Authorizing a Contract with TTI Relative to the Tank Removal Project
- 64-19 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit Report
- 65-19 Authorizing a Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney/Client Privileged Matter
- 66-19 Appointing Gerald Recigno as Plumbing Sub-Code Official

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

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO JOINT LAND USE BOARD

Mayor Wolk announced that Gary Prinski is appointed as a Class IV Alternate to the unexpired term ending June, 2020. If anyone else is interested in serving, please let the Clerk know.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies announced that on August 13 there was a gas leak at a vacant house on Remington Avenue and there was no shutoff valve. There was great cooperation between OEM, the Police and Fire Departments in evacuating the surrounding residents. Also, on Sunday, September 1, Engineer 451 with a crew of five went to Camden to assist on a three alarm church fire. Everyone returned safely. He then read highlights from the August monthly report from the Police Department reporting they had 21 alarms, 71 ambulance calls, five assaults, one overdose, two fraud cases, 12 harassments, three sex offender registrations, 12 motor vehicle crashes, 20 suspicious people or vehicles, two shopliftings, five thefts, multiple vacation and wellbeing checks, four 9-1-1 verifications, three missing people and the officers had 288 car stops and issued 255 summonses. They served 32 warrants and had 49 adult arrests for the month. He read highlights of the arrest offenses. They also had four juvenile arrests and he read highlights of those offenses.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for August, 2019, the Construction office issued 15 permits for a total of \$2,177 and two vacant property registrations for \$2,158. They had 15 resale CO's and collected \$1,800. For Public Works, single stream was 77,380 pounds and trash tonnage was 166 tons at a cost of \$12,967 to the Camden facility. They had zero sewer calls, picked-up 8700 pounds of metal for \$498, painted the light poles on Lumber Lane, had a Fire Marshal inspection on August 20 for all public buildings which went well and the speed humps were installed and painted on Northmont Avenue. We also hired a new company that will be doing our refrigeration and heating work.

Engineer Erika Vardaxis from Federici and Akin reported on the following items:

- The plans for DOT projects James Street and Bell Road storm sewer have been submitted to DOT for their approval. Once we get their approval we will be going out to bid. We will coordinate that work with NJAW so they can rehab the sewer during those projects.
- The project we received DOT money for this year, Idora and Charles, will be designed this winter all and out to bid in the spring

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for August 2019, reporting total receipts of \$2,954,157.48 and \$12,574.79 in lien redemptions. This report will be received and spread on the minutes. The newsletter will be going out so hold on to that as it has a lot of good information. We will meet here again on September 24 for the caucus meeting at 3pm and then on October 3 at 7pm for the general meeting. Schools are open so please drive carefully—especially around the schools.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Richard Welsh from Baird Avenue asked what can be done to slow traffic down on Kings Highway without speed humps. He believes that when trucks see the light green at Market and they are by the 7-11, they speed up to make the light and he believes they are up to 50mph. Chief Conte said we can run some radar. Commissioner Gies agreed.

Stan Witkowski from 106 4th Avenue said he does not think the speed humps on 4th are effective. He believes people speed up when they approach the humps. He added that Gloucester City has stop signs on every corner in the area of the ballfields. It really slows the traffic down. Perhaps we can add stop signs to several of the corners. He also said there have been some bicycle thefts and wanted to know if the police have made any progress. Chief

Conte said they are still investigating. They are hoping to get information from the photos taken by a resident's security cameras. Witkowski then asked about the construction at the gas station on the corner of Black Horse Pike and Kings Highway and wanted to know what is going on there. Commissioner Gies and Commissioner Tovinsky responded they were removing the tanks but no other construction is going on yet. Witkowski then asked if the property owned by Sacred Heart Church is still tax exempt. Mayor Wolk responded that we instructed the assessor to put them back on the tax rolls and we sent the diocese a letter. We are waiting for them to respond. Commissioner Tovinsky added that there was an interested party but it fell through as the pizza place did not want to sell. It is also a difficult sell because you can't make a left out of the parking lot. Commissioner Tovinsky also added that regarding 4th Avenue, we can't just put stop signs anywhere we want. Chief Conte added we will do a traffic study. Witkowski then asked about the resolution regarding tank removal at borough hall and the Clerk explained that we had a tank removed years ago and are working towards getting the DEP case closed out. Witkowski asked about a shredding event and the Clerk responded it is set for November 9, 8am-11am.

Katherine Glen from 703 Cedar Avenue asked the governing body to consider to make the chicken ordinance permanent and can we include language to allow them to free change in an enclosed area. She also wanted to thank Public Works for their help in getting NJAW out to help them with a sewer issue. She then asked if the Police Department was considering an opt-in program with residential security systems and Chief Conte responded that there is a cost associated with that but they are looking into it.

Kyle Nash asked about the resolutions. Is there somewhere they can read more about these? The clerk responded they are posted right outside this room on the bulletin board.

Mike Rossano from Green Avenue asked about the speeding issues and inquired as to how many people have been hit on 4th Avenue. Chief Conte responded there have been no accidents on 4th Avenue to his knowledge.

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

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:24pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk