

**JANUARY 5, 2017, 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 8:00pm and announced that this meeting has been advertised and posted in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act”. He then led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk all present.

OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE DAIS

Borough Solicitor – Eric Riso
Borough Engineer – Joe Federici & Doug Akin
Borough Clerk – Terry Shannon

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk asked for a motion to approve the minutes November 22, 2016, caucus meeting and the December 1, 2016, commission meeting. 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 \$802,111.07 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.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk announced that ordinance 01-17, Amending Chapter 94 of the Borough Code Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” is being introduced tonight. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of ordinance 01-17 was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced that this ordinance will be considered for adoption following proper notice and a public hearing to be held at the February 2, 2017, commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the following resolutions for approval by Consent Agenda:

- 01-17 Authorizing Submission of an Application for Municipal Drug Alliance Funding
- 02-17 Authorizing Submission of Grant Applications for NJDOT Municipal Aid Funding
- 03-17 Authorizing a Contract with Animal Welfare Society of Camden Co. for Shelter Svcs.
- 04-17 Authorizing a Contract with Community Animal Care Services
- 05-17 Approving the 2017 Temporary Budget

- 06-17 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Borough of Bellmawr for Hauling of Runnemedede Trash
- 07-17 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Borough of Barrington Relative to Municipal Clerk Services
- 08-17 Authorizing Agreement with First Jersey Municipal Assistance for Consulting Services
- 09-17 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Camden County Relative to Snow Removal Services
- 10-17 Authorizing the Borough Engineer to Prepare Plans and Advertise for Bids for Improvements to Harding, Lowell and Winthrop Avenues
- 11-17 Authorizing Execution of a Rights-of-Way Use Agreement with Verizon Wireless
- 12-17 Authorizing a Refund of Healthcare Contribution Received
- 13-17 Setting the 2017 Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes
- 14-17 Appointing James Beebe as Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

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.

Jim Beebe was administered the Oath of Office by Mayor Wolk. Commissioner Tovinsky congratulated Jim on the appointment and said Jim does a great job for us and he knows he will do well in his new position. Mayor Wolk acknowledged the presence of Joe Ciano and thanked him for helping Jim and for all he does for Mount Ephraim. We are grateful for the services provided by Bellmawr. Jim thanked Ken Jones, who was also present, and Joe for their help along the way.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department report for the month of December. He read highlights of the offenses and reported they had 31 adult arrests. Gilmore then read highlights from the December report from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department and reported they had 21 calls and conducted four drills. He added the annual report will be submitted in February. He hopes everyone had a happy New Year and we look forward to continuing to be of service to the Borough of Mount Ephraim.

Commissioner Tovinsky read highlights from the December monthly report from the Construction Office reporting they issued nine permits for a total of \$652.00. For the year they issued 344 permits for a total of \$41,204. He then read highlights from the December report from Public Works reporting they had single stream recycling of 133,000 pounds and trash tonnage of 163 tons for a disposal cost of \$10,930.00. They repaired potholes, collected metal recycling and continued leaf pickup which will continue into January. They are ready for snow and brined the streets today. New street signs will be installed after the New Year.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that they will be advertising for the Harding and Lowell project and also the Winthrop Avenue project. Those two projects will be coordinated with the Grant Avenue and will be done in the spring. We are submitting to DOT for funding for Northmont and Baird Avenues.

Mayor Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for the month of December reporting that total receipts were \$233,175.12 and lien redemptions were \$12,208.13. We will be here again on January 24 for our workshop and on February 2 for the commission meeting. He thanked all those who participated in the Christmas festivities. We have three major projects that will start in the spring and we will coordinate so it is not too much of a traffic nightmare.

Solicitor Eric Riso reported they are working on the agreement with Verizon Wireless for the installation of the network nodes on the utility poles and as soon as the details are worked out, they will send the agreement over.

Mayor Wolk then asked Chief Conte to talk about the traffic movement on Kings Highway. Chief Conte explained that the left hand turn queue is being expanded to allow for more cars to enter it without crossing the center line. It will change the parking restrictions on Kings Highway and will be re-stripped.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Present was Doug Morgan from 412 Bell Road who reported that the fence was down on the property of the halfway house next to him and he wanted to know if we can legally require them to put it back up. The fence provides some level of security to the neighbors. Chief Conte reported they had been out there and told them they had to repair the fence. As no action has been taken, we will give the complaint to our property maintenance official. Morgan asked if they can just remove the fence. Chief Conte said the individuals are monitored and are at some level of rehabilitation that they don't pose a threat to the community. Commissioner Gilmore said it is a possibility they were required to have a fence and we would look into that.

Seeing no other public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Shannon
Municipal Clerk