

**DECEMBER 6, 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 7:05pm 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, Engineers Joe Federici and Doug Akin and Clerk Terry Shannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the September 25, 2018, caucus meeting and the November 7, 2018, commission 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 \$1,550,117.62 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 INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinances are on for public hearing and adoption this evening and read them by title as follows:

- 15-18 Ordinance Granting Consent to New Jersey American Water Company, Inc., to Permit the Construction, Expansion and Maintenance of Sewer Collection and Treatment Facilities on Public and Private Property in the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 16-18 Amending Ordinance 11-17 of the Borough Code Entitled Animals (backyard chicken pilot program)

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

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on these ordinances and asked for any questions or comments on these ordinances. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing on these ordinances was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, Ordinance 15-18 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, Ordinance 16-18 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-respectfully, no.

Commissioner Tovinsky explained that there will be no “free range” for a period of three months. We will then meet with the inspector to discuss and see how everyone feels about “free range” and we will make a determination if we want to allow it. Commissioner Gilmore added he met with one of Mrs. Constantine who has chickens and was surprised at how quiet and domesticated the chickens were. He was there for a while and heard no noise at all. We welcome the program.

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:

- 109-18 Designating Regular Meeting Dates and Times for Calendar Year 2019
- 110-18 Renewing Membership in the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund
- 111-18 Authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers
- 112-18 Authorizing a Contract with the Animal Welfare Society of Camden County for Animal Shelter Services for 2019

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.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department report for November 2018. They had 744 calls and assigned 722 case numbers. He read highlights of some of the offenses. He also reported they had 43 arrests and read highlights of some the arrests. There were also six juvenile arrests and he read highlights of police department training for the month. He also reported they issued 339 motor vehicle summonses. Commissioner Gilmore then reported the Fire Department is preparing for the parade of lights on Saturday night on Kings Highway. He added that on behalf of himself and his wife, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported the Construction Office issued nine permits for a total of \$1,253 in fees. They also issued nine resale CO's for a total of \$1080. He reported that Public Works collected single stream recycling of 85,580 pounds and 192 tons of trash for a cost of \$13,244. Every month they are removing graffiti from the playground equipment, they repaired potholes, handled two sewer calls where the main was clogged. Because of the heavy rain, we had problems at the 2nd Avenue pump station. We had to have Municipal Maintenance vacuum all the water out so it wouldn't overflow. It was good that the town voted to sell the sewer system. DPW is trying to keep up with the leaves—call if you need a pickup. There have been changes to recycling—no greasy food boxes and only 1's and 2's for plastics. No recycling can be in plastic bags—please make sure you follow the new regulations or your recycling won't be collected. Audubon Cesco repaired our boiler to meet state inspection. He then wished everyone Happy Holidays and hopes to see you at the parade.

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

- The NJDOT 2018 James Street project is under design and the work will be done in the spring of 2019.
- Regarding the Bell Road Discretionary Aid funding, Phase 2, that project is also under design and will go out for bid in 2019.
- We are applying for additional Discretionary Aid for Bell Road, Phase 3, to try to get enough funds to complete the drainage project.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for November 2018, reporting total receipts of \$2,116,985.82 and \$43,839.21 in lien redemptions. Regarding the changes to recycling, Republic Services sent us a letter telling us the market has changed and they can no longer accept items that are rejected. We are working to get the information out to our residents. Pizza boxes need to go in the trash along with plastic bags. We will be here again on Thursday, December 27 at 3pm for the regular workshop and January 3 at 7pm for the commission meeting. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from his family to yours.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Christine Jankowski, 500 W. Kings Highway, said she lives two doors from the convenience store that opened across from the 7-11. They are selling tobacco products to underage kids. Chief Conte said it is not tobacco products—it is the Juul pods he is selling. Unfortunately it is not illegal to sell nicotine products to underage kids—just tobacco products. Jankowski added they are also having issues with stuff being stolen from their property, trash all over, parking issues and more. Chief Conte added they know there is a problem with the kids in town but they cannot sit out there 24/7 and to please call us when there is an issue. The Clerk suggested they contact their legislators to see if the prohibition on selling tobacco products can be expanded to include Juul pods.

Mike Rossano from Green Avenue thanked the governing body for the chicken pilot program. Also have we ever looked at any kind of a block captain program? They can be a liaison between the government and the residents and may help keep residents informed about what is going on in town. Commissioner Tovinsky responded it may be difficult to get volunteers. Rossano said we would only need one per block. Mayor Wolk responded that we used to have a neighborhood watch program and it worked pretty well. We will take this up at our next workshop and asked the solicitor to check on the legality of such a program.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Approved:

Terry Shannon

Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk