

**MARCH 2, 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 January 24, 2017, caucus meeting and the February 2, 2017, 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 \$1,526,976.29 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.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Wolk announced that we are presenting a proclamation to Michael Arechacvala for achieving the level of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. The Mayor and Commissioners presented the proclamation to Michael and read his list of accomplishments including collecting 6,152 food items for Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church food bank, his many sports accomplishments including 40 medals earned in the Special Olympics of New Jersey and being named an "Athlete Ambassador" for the National Down Syndrome Society. He also earned 34 merit badges as a Boy Scout and most recently achieved the level of Eagle Scout. They congratulated Michael on his many accomplishments.

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING**

Mayor Wolk announced that ordinance 03-17, Calendar Year 2017 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of ordinance 03-17 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 April 6, 2017, commission meeting.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the following resolutions for approval by Consent Agenda. The Clerk reported there are two additions to the consent agenda which will be read at the end.

- 22-17 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Audubon for Ambulance Services
- 23-17 Authorizing a Lease Agreement with MEPRI for Use of Ambulances
- 24-17 Adopting the Camden County Hazard Mitigation Plan for Four NJ Counties
- 25-17 Authorizing Submission of a Camden County Open Space Grant Application
- 26-17 Authorizing an Application for CDBG Funding for Year 39
- 27-17 Resolution Cancelling Taxes
- 28-17 Approving Renewal of 2017 Mercantile Licenses
- 29-17 Introduction of the 2017 Municipal Budget
- 30-17 Awarding a Contract to Landberg Construction for the Grant & Winthrop Roadway and Drainage Improvements Contingent upon Approval by the Solicitor and NJDOT
- 31-17 Appointing Brandon Welsh to the Mount Ephraim Fire Department

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.

## **REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department report for the month of February. He reported they assigned 364 case numbers and read highlights of the offenses. They issued 358 motor vehicle summonses. He also reported they had 30 adult arrests and read highlights of the arrests. They also had two juvenile arrests for controlled dangerous substances which is something we don't want to see. Commissioner Gilmore then read highlights from the February report from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department and reported they had 20 calls for service and read highlights of the calls including three drills, one building fire and six mutual aid. He added that the voluntary sleep-in duty crew logged 600 hours of overnight service during the storm events. He again thanked Michael Arechavala for all his accomplishments and wished him best of luck in the future.

Commissioner Tovinsky read highlights from the February, 2017, monthly report from the Construction Office reporting they issued 25 permits for a total of \$1979.00. Vacant properties were registered for a total of \$11,000.00 in registration fees. CO's processed were five for a total \$600.00. He then read highlights from the February report from Public Works reporting they had trash tonnage of 138 tons for a disposal cost of \$9300.00. They repaired potholes, collected 14,320 pounds of metal recycling, replaced a toilet in the police department, and had the air release valves at the Harding Avenue pump station.

Engineer Joe Federici reported the Grant Avenue project preconstruction is scheduled for March 21. Project will begin by the beginning of April. Also the contract for the Winthrop Avenue project was awarded tonight. We anticipate that project beginning mid-April. We have a bid opening for the Lowell/Harding project on April 26. That project will begin later on in the summer.

Mayor Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for the month of February reporting that total receipts were \$2,202,006.00 and lien redemptions were \$36,192.66. He reported we introduced the

budget this evening and the public hearing will be next month. Local property taxes will increase by less than ninety cents per week, \$45.92 per year for the average assessment. This budget takes advantage of the shared service with Bellmawr for collection of Runnemede trash as well as the many other shared services including municipal court, municipal clerk, vehicle repairs and ambulance service. We have added costs in the police department to bring them up to full staffing. They have been working with limited manpower for the past couple years and we appreciate their good job. We will be here again on March 28 for our workshop and on April 6 for the commission meeting which will include the public hearing on the 2017 budget. As the engineer reported our projects will be starting soon. The Grant Avenue project was on hold from last year because of the Governor's freeze but is now ready to go. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terry Shannon*

Municipal Clerk