

**JUNE 1, 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 present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Joe Federici and Clerk Terry Shannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes from the April 25, 2017, caucus and May 4, 2017, commission meetings were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,528,356.63 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 asked the Clerk to read the ordinances that are being considered for adoption tonight which she read as follows:

- 04-17 Establishing the 2017 Salaries of Police Department Employees Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements
- 05-17 Establishing the 2017 Salaries of DPW Employees Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements
- 06-17 Establishing the 2017 Salaries of Non-union Employees and Officials of the Borough

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on these ordinances. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the ordinances as read were adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Ordinances were successfully adopted.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinance is being introduced on first reading tonight:

- 07-17 Amending Chapter 94, Vehicles and Traffic, in the Borough Code
(adds stop intersections)

Mayor Wolk stated that this ordinance will be properly advertised and posted for 30 days and will be considered for adoption following a public hearing at the July 6 commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the following resolutions for approval by Consent Agenda which she read as follows:

- 46-17 Amending Drug and Alcohol Policy in Personnel Policy Handbook
- 47-17 Authorizing Professional Appointments under a Fair and Open Process
- 48-17 Authorizing Purchase of a Lawnmower under MCESCCPS Cooperative

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

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Wolk announced that the following appointments to the Planning Board are hereby made:

- Class II Member for a one-year term: Ken Herman
- Class III Member for a one-year term: Michael "Traz" Tovinsky
- Class IV Member for a four-year term: Michael Schiavo

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department report for the month of May. He reported they had approximately 800 calls and assigned 366 case numbers and read highlights of the offenses. He also reported they had 42 adult arrests and read highlights of the arrests. They also had ten juvenile arrests. They served 33 out-of-town warrants and issued 436 motor vehicle summonses. The fire department report was not yet available as the chief is on vacation. He stated his appreciation for the Memorial Day services. We did have some burglaries in town due to ground floor windows being left open. Make sure to secure your ground floor windows. Commissioner Gilmore reported that the Fire Department along with Gloucester and Westville received a FEMA grant in the amount of \$466,000 to purchase new firefighter breathing apparatus. Our next meeting will be after July 4 so he wished everyone a nice holiday.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for May, 2017, the Construction Office issued 29 permits for a total of \$4257.00. Vacant property registrations collected \$1000.00 for two new ones and eight resale CO's for a total of \$960.00. Public Works collected 71,620 pounds of single stream recycling and 181 trash tons for a cost of \$12,287.00. They collected metal, mulch for the parks which was spread by honor students, replaced the toilets in the Police Department, and installed new signs at the ballfields regarding parking. The Memorial Day services were very nice and a great job by the Mount Ephraim Police and Fire Departments. He wished everyone a Happy 4th.

Engineer Joe Federici reported the Grant Avenue project is substantially complete; Winthrop Avenue project is underway and is expected to be complete this summer; Lowell and Harding project will be completed at the end of the summer; we received word from NJDOT that the Borough was awarded \$177,000 for Northmont Avenue. That project will be done next spring. The Borough has received over \$800,000 from DOT for road projects in the past four years which is pretty good.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for May, 2017, reporting total receipts of \$2,229,810.60 and \$44,476.05 in lien redemptions. He also thanked everyone who participated in the Memorial Day celebration. He also thanked those who participated in the Miss Mount Ephraim contests. We just got notice that we received the \$177,000 for Northmont so we are grateful for that. The fire equipment that we will receive as a result of the grant is also a great thing. The July 4 parade will start at noon and thanks to everyone who participates in that and also the businesses who donate to the parade. Our next meeting will be July 6.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

There were several residents present to discuss the situation with the halfway house on Bell Avenue. Kelly and Tom Maxwell, Mike Popelak and Neil Brooks discussed the fence that is down at the house. They have lived there for years and never had a problem but now that the fence is down, the residents in the house seem to wander onto other properties and look directly into the neighbors' windows. They asked the governing body to point them in the proper direction to try to get the fence replaced. Is it possible the type of individuals in the house has changed? Are we entitled to that information? They really believe the fence contained them and kept them from wandering onto the neighbors' properties and they really want the fence replaced. Mayor Wolk responded that Doug Morgan has made them aware of the situation. Commissioner Tovinsky said the County is involved but the people who run the house don't have the funds to replace the fence. Mayor Wolk said we will find out who the freeholder is in charge of this facility and we will contact them. Then we will find out if there have been any changes. Solicitor Riso said they do have privacy rights and we may not be able to get that information. Perhaps the County can come up with funds to replace the fence. Riso stressed that if you see any criminal activity, call the police. Mayor Wolk added he understands it is a quality of life issue for the residents and we are going to dig deeper and try to get more information and some help. Perhaps we can even set-up a meeting with the residents to discuss their concerns.

Kelly Maxwell added that the house behind them is vacant and they mow the lawn in the front but not in the back. She is concerned about ticks. Commissioner Tovinsky said he will have Tara contact the mortgage company and send them a seven-day letter to get it cleaned-up.

Barbara Baumgartner from Baird Avenue said they live on the corner of Baird and Garfield. Everyone else got new curbs but they do not have curbs. Her husband would like to put in a curb but they would have to cut the street. Engineer Joe Federici said he will take a look at it and get back to them.

Diane Vilardo from Lincoln Avenue asked how the town can get a historical society started. We used to have one and we have a lot of history here that should be captured. Commissioner Gilmore said someone needs to grab the bull by the horns and get one started. Mayor Wolk said we will look into it. Vilardo said she is sure we could get some volunteers.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon
Municipal Clerk