

**JANUARY 7, 2016, COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM  
KERSHAW SCHOOL MEDIA ROOM**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 8:10pm in the Kershaw School Media Center and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The meeting was moved to Kershaw School as Brian Conte was going to be sworn in as Police Chief and the audience was quite large.

**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 and Doug Akin  
Borough Clerk – Terry Shannon

**“OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW” ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Wolk announced that “This meeting has been advertised and notices posted in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act.” Mayor Wolk then announced that we would get our regular business out of the way so we could get to the event that everyone was waiting for.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Mayor Wolk asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2015, commission meeting, the October 27, 2015, caucus meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$775,294.35 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.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Wolk announced that the resolutions would be approved as a Consent Agenda and asked the Clerk to read the resolutions which she read as follows:

- 01-16 Authorizing the 2016 Temporary Budget
- 02-16 Cancelling State Dated Checks
- 03-16 Authorizing a Contract with Community Animal Care Services
- 04-16 Authorizing Transfers of 2015 Appropriation Reserves
- 05-16 Authorizing Renewal of the Shared Services Agreement with Barrington for Municipal Clerk Services
- 06-16 Authorizing Participation in the Contract Negotiated by Camden County with Covanta for Trash Disposal
- 07-16 Setting the Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes

- 08-16 Authorizing an Agreement with FJMA for Consulting Services
- 09-16 Approving Change Order No. 1 on VCI Contract for New Ambulance
- 10-16 Authorizing Submission of a Strategic Plan for Drug Alliance Funding

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 BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

Commissioner Gilmore recognized all the police chiefs who were in attendance. He added that retired chief Brian Beppel was recovering from surgery and could not be here but sends his best. He then read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Police Department monthly report for December reporting they had 440 calls and assigned 270 case numbers. They had 23 adult arrests and he read highlights of those charges. Commissioner Gilmore then read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department monthly report for December. He also reported that on their yearly report they had a total of 319 calls for service for 2015.

Commissioner Tovinsky welcomed everyone and then he recognized various public officials who were in the audience including the following: Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Senator Jim Beach, Freeholder Bill Munn, Freeholder Susan Shin-Angulo and Camden County Deputy Administrator Dominic Vesper. He added that Congressman Donald Norcross was in Washington and could not be here but sends his regards.

Mayor Wolk recognized Freeholder Director Lou Cappelli who was also in attendance.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that they prepared a sketch for the realignment of the striping on the left turn lane on Kings Highway for submission to the County. Regarding the borough hall ramp project, the ramp is complete and they are doing the shop drawings for the railing. The door and trim is currently being installed and they expect the project to be done in the next couple of weeks. The NJDOT Grant Avenue project plans have been submitted and we are awaiting DOT approval.

Mayor Wolk then thanked everyone who participated in the Christmas parade, Toys for Tots and the Santa Luncheon. Thanks to the Celebration Committee and the Fire Company for all their work on these events. He then recognized former Mayor Bill Bradford and former Commissioner Dan Bradford who were also in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AND SWEARING-IN OF NEW CHIEF OF POLICE**

Mayor Wolk announced we have the following resolution to be approved:

- 11-16 Promoting Brian Conte to the Position of Chief of Police

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.

Commissioner Gilmore gave a history of Brian's career and education with the Mt. Ephraim Police Department. Brian was then administered the Oath of Office by Freeholder Director Lou Cappelli with his wife Donna holding the Bible. There was thunderous applause from the large audience.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. He congratulated Brian on his promotion and spoke about how long he has known Brian and his family. He also thanked Brian's wife Donna and their daughter Charlotte for sharing Brian with the community. Brian then thanked his wife for her support and also the governing body for their faith in him. He added that he was humbled by the amount of people that came out tonight to support him.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terry Shannon*  
Municipal Clerk