

APRIL 7, 2011, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

All present pledged their allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

ABSENT

Commissioner Gilmore	_____X_____	_____
Commissioner Greenwald	_____X_____	_____
Mayor Wolk	_____X_____	_____

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Borough Solicitor – Eric Riso
Borough Engineers – Doug Akin & Joe Federici
Borough Clerk – Terry Shannon
Tax Collector/Dep. Clerk – Marie Darlington
Police Chief—Ed Dobleman

“OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW” ANNOUNCEMENT

This Meeting has been advertised and notices posted in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act.”

PROCLAMATIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. February 22, 2011, Caucus Meeting
2. March 3, 2011, General Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenwald and seconded by Commissioner Gilmore to approve the aforementioned minutes. All were in favor.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk read the voucher list total for the month is \$930,568.21. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the bill list was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

06-11 Adding Chapter 24, Purchasing Agent, to the Borough Code

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on these ordinances. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the ordinances were adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes. The ordinances are adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

The Clerk read the following ordinance for introduction by title:

- 07-11 Repealing Ordinance 13-10 (Amending Chapter 94B)
- 08-11 Amending Chapter 94, Traffic, in the Borough Code
(left turn prohibition at 4th and BHP)

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the introduction of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced that these ordinances would be considered for adoption following a public hearing at the May 5 regular meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Clerk announced that the following resolutions would be approved as a Consent Agenda:

- RESOLUTION 23-11 Authorizing an Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Mount Ephraim and IBEW Local 102
- RESOLUTION 24-11 Adopting the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- RESOLUTION 25-11 Appointing a Special Police Officer to the Police Department
- RESOLUTION 26-11 Awarding a Contract to Fred M. Schiavone for the Bell Road Drainage Project
- RESOLUTION 27-11 Authorizing Advertisement for RFQ's for Selection of Professionals under a Fair and Open Process
- RESOLUTION 28-11 Approving Change Orders Nos. 3 and 4 for the Bell Road Fire Station Project

- RESOLUTION 29-11 To Establish a New Petty Cash Fund
- RESOLUTION 30-11 Authorizing the Engineer to Proceed with the Design Work for the Hartka Avenue Project
- RESOLUTION 31-11 Introduction of the 2011 Municipal Budget

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

APPROVAL OF MERCANTILE LICENSES:

Mayor Wolk read the following mercantile license applicants by name for approval:

Cabana Water Ice Co.	102 W. Kings Highway
D & J Auto Service	107 S. Black Horse Pike
Kimberly Mecca Tax Preparation, LLC	106 W. Kings Highway
Subway Mt. Ephraim Food Mgmt.	267 S. Black Horse Pike

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the mercantile licenses were approved with all in favor.

REPORTS:

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Fire Department and Police Department monthly reports for March. He added that he was pleased to report that the PD issued 415 motor vehicle summonses for March. They were very active enforcing the motor vehicle code. Good effort by the PD. He added that Camden County is disbanding the Fire Marshal office which left municipalities without this service. We are exploring entering a shared service with Barrington, Magnolia, Oaklyn, Hi-Nella and Lawnside with Barrington as the lead agency. We need to establish our inspection fees. The hope is the fees will cover the costs to run the office. Monday night there was a hostage situation in town and kudos to the PD for a job well done without any injuries.

Commissioner Greenwald read the highlights from the Construction Department monthly report. Again this month there were no accidents or injuries in DPW. He reported that single stream recycling for the prior month was 92,540 pounds which is a great accomplishment and cuts down on trash tonnage. Public Works has been doing pothole repairs and we have a pothole hotline that was posted in the Messenger so residents can report potholes. They responded to nine sewer calls, cleaned the 2nd Avenue pump station through the shared service agreement with Bellmawr; put stone on Emerson and graded it, ran the street sweeper several times on Bell Road, put up the spring flags on Kings Highway and moved some of the benches. They delivered baseball dirt to the fields and they set-up for the rabies clinic. April 16 at Shining Star Park is the Easter Egg Hunt. This Saturday, April 9, Mt. Ephraim opening day with Little League and Girl's Softball being combined for the first time. April 30 is the 4th Annual

Craft and Car Show. Thanks to the PD for a job well done Monday night. Commissioner Greenwald wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that they are currently reviewing the plans they received from the DOT for the 295 project and the potential impact to Bell Road. Also, they are proceeding with the field work and design of the Hartka Avenue project.

Mayor Wolk read the receipt totals from the Tax Collector report for the month of February, 2011. He thanked Commissioner Greenwald for pointing out all the events that are coming up this month. He added that we introduced the budget and that it took many hours of work and that with everyone's participation we are at a zero tax increase. Public hearing will be next month. He thanked all the employees, department heads and professionals for their hard work on the budget.

Chief Dobleman reminded everyone that on the day of the Craft Show, Kings Highway will be closed from 6am-6pm. He added that they made an arrest of the individual who had been robbing the Mt. Ephraim CVS and stores in other towns as well.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Theresa Ingram, 15 Second Avenue, was thrilled there is no tax increase. She also asked about the homes that are for sale in Mt. Ephraim. There are 84 homes for sale and she would like to know how many are in pre-foreclosure or foreclosure. Marie Darlington explained that pre-foreclosure notices are sent as soon as two payments are missed so we don't really know how many are in actual foreclosure.

Mike Tovinsky, 138 Seventh Avenue asked if we are bringing in any revenue from the billboard. Rich Schwab explained we are soliciting proposals for a long-term lease. Mike asked why we aren't getting the revenue and Mayor Wolk explained that we don't have the current lease agreement but will be taking it over when the current lease expires in 2013.

Laura Donia, 116 Lincoln Avenue, asked about loitering at the Spread Eagle. She has seen things that appeared a little shady and called the police department to ask about it. She was told to call immediately when she sees anything suspicious. Chief Dobleman said he would take it under advisement.

Rodman Williams, 502 Bell Road, proposed changes to borough ordinances. The first issue pertains to barking dogs. He has a neighbor who lets the dogs out at 6:30am and they bark creating a disturbance. Our ordinance says they cannot bark for ten continuous minutes however it becomes a nuisance at much less than that. He checked with other towns and Audubon has a zero-tolerance for this. He asked if we would we look at amending the borough code to something similar. The second issue is

about open fires. He has a problem with two neighbors who have fire pits and the smoke comes in his windows and is a health risk. It has come close to sending him to the emergency room. He presented a photo he took from Google Earth that shows the fire pits. DEP regulations prohibit open burning. He wants the borough to enact an ordinance regulating these rather than enact state law. Mayor Wolk said we would look into this further and once our fire marshal is in place perhaps he could be helpful with this as well. Commissioner Gilmore said that he believes our ordinance allows him to sign a complaint for any problem he deems to be a nuisance. He asked Chief Dobleman to take a look at the ordinance and see if a complaint can be signed. Chief Dobleman said he would look into.

Laura Donia stated she agrees with Mr. Rodman and said there should be some kind of regulations as to where these fire pits can be located and what can be burned.

Solicitor Eric Riso added that the Uniform Fire Code regulates fire pits and borough ordinances cannot pre-empt state law.

Mayor Wolk said neighbors need to understand other neighbor's rights and boundaries and we don't want a ton of laws telling people what to do but everyone has the right to fresh air without smoke coming in their windows. We encourage residents to talk to each other and hopefully common sense will prevail. This is a small town and we need to get along with each other. We will look into what our options are on both of these issues.

Rich Holmes, President of the Fire Company, added that when there is a problem, the residents should call the fire department. The Clerk asked for clarification as to if they should dial 9-1-1 and Rich said that yes they should. They will come out and make sure the fire pit meets code requirements and is being used properly.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioners Greenwald and Gilmore, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

On a motion by Commissioners Greenwald and Gilmore, meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon,
Borough Clerk