

**MARCH 10, 2015, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM**

This meeting was held on a Tuesday as the regular meeting had to be postponed due to a snowstorm.

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

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Greenwald and Mayor Wolk all present.

OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE DAIS

Borough Solicitor – Eric Riso

Borough Engineers – Joseph 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.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2015, caucus meeting and the February 5, 2015, commission meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,306,078.64 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk announced that the following is being considered for public hearing and adoption tonight: Ordinance 01-15, Establishing a Fee for Dougherty Senior Community Center Hall Rentals. Mayor Wolk then opened the public hearing and stated that comments are limited to five minutes. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the ordinance was adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes, Greenwald-yes, Wolk-yes. Ordinance 01-15 is adopted.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk announced that we have three ordinances for introduction on first reading tonight and asked the Clerk to read them as follows:

Ord. 02-15 Calendar Year 2015 Ordinance to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

Ord. 03-15 Bond Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment in the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$250,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Up to \$237,500 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

Ord. 04-15 Establishing Fees for Advertising in the Mount Ephraim Messenger

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes, Greenwald-yes, Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk then stated that these ordinances will be considered for adoption after advertisement and a public hearing to be held at the April 2 commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

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

- 14-15 Introduction of the 2015 Municipal Budget
- 15-15 Awarding a Contract to Richard T. Barrett Paving Co. for the 2nd Avenue Project in the Amount of \$133,871.25
- 16-15 Authorizing Submission of an Application for Year 37 CDBG Funding
- 17-15 Authorizing Submission of a Camden County Open Space Grant Application
- 18-15 Authorizing a Request for Proposals for Financial Advisors

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

MERCANTILE LICENSES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk read the following mercantile licenses that are to be approved:

- Canal's Liquor Store – 210 N. Black Horse Pike
- Domino's Pizza – 210 N. Black Horse Pike
- Bert's Autobody – 703-707 Market Street
- McDonald's – 259 S. Black Horse Pike
- Cabana Water Ice Co. – 102 W. Kings Highway
- John's Sign Shop – 289 S. Black Horse Pike
- Kena, Inc. – 10 E. Kings Highway
- Computer Services Bureau, Inc. – 217 N. Black Horse Pike
- Dave's Cleaners – 10 E. Kings Highway
- Bellmawr Auto & Tire Center – 403 S. Black Horse Pike
- Auto Zone – 221 S. Black Horse Pike
- Mr. Tire #1191 – 509 N. Black Horse Pike
- Guisseppi's – 13-15 S. Black Horse Pike
- Kimberly Mecca Tax Preparation – 106 W. Kings Highway

Lisk Landscaping Management – 106 W. Kings Highway
Pizza Hut #727 – 710 N. Black Horse Pike
Midas – 160 N. Black Horse Pike
Walgreens – 20 W. Kings Highway

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

BINGO/RAFFLE LICENSES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk announced that the following bingo/raffle licenses are to be approved:

RA-427 Audubon Education Foundation (casino night at MEPRI Hall on March 21)
RA-428 Audubon Education Foundation (50/50 at MEPRI Hall on March 21)

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 Mt. Ephraim Police Department monthly report for February. They had a total of 389 calls and assigned 219 case numbers. He read highlights of the offenses and reported there were 12 adult arrests and then read highlights of the arrests. There were no juvenile arrests for the month. He also reported that the department issued 243 motor vehicle summonses for the month. He then read highlights from the Mt. Ephraim Fire Department monthly report for February. He reported they had a total of 23 calls for service and read highlights of the calls. Commissioner Gilmore then offered condolences to the Tokolish family on the loss of the Mother. She was a long time resident of Mount Ephraim and will surely be missed.

Commissioner Greenwald stated that he did not have a report for the Construction Department so he went right into the Public Works report. He read the highlights of the February report and reported that single stream recycling was over 61,000 pounds. Other activities for Public Works included pothole repairs, treating streets with salt and brine, handled six sewer calls, removed a hazardous tree by the Round House and on Easy Street. He also reported that Jim Beebe spoke with the resident at 27 Sartori and informed her that the borough cannot pay for the connection.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that they will confirm that we have all the approvals from CDBG for the handicapped ramp project on the front of the building and will start working on the plans and specifications. Also the NJDOT 2014 project was awarded tonight and they will schedule the pre-construction meeting. We will be re-quoting the speed hump project and expect to get those in the next couple of weeks.

Mayor Wolk read the receipt totals from the Tax Collector report for the month of February, 2015, reporting that total receipts were \$1,929,539.11 and lien redemptions were \$83,158.54. We introduced our 2015 Budget tonight and the public hearing will be at the May 7 commission meeting. The Budget provides all the operating needs of the borough while holding taxes at the same level as in 2014. On the average residential property there is actually a decrease in taxes. One of the reasons is the renewal of the shared service agreement with Bellmawr for the collection of Runnemede trash. Sharing of services with our neighbors has helped hold costs down and turnover through retirements has leveled out our payroll costs. We are also

refinancing debt for a lower rate which resulted in lower debt service this year. Reports are available to the public. We will be here again on March 24 at 3pm for the workshop and April 2 for the commission meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Arlene Matarazzo and Ms. Marville from 29 and 27 Sartori Avenue respectively spoke about their sewer line situation. Their sewer lines are connected but it is going in the wrong direction. George Coleman had looked at it with a camera and said the connection is going up instead of down. It is causing gurgling in their lines and a sewer odor. Ms. Marville wants to have her own sewer line installed but wants the borough to cover the connection. Matarazzo said the sewer line goes through her driveway and across her apron. Ms. Marville said she gets backups and when the plumber snakes the line, it will only go so far because of the way it is connected. Engineer Joe Federici looked at the drawings and said typically there is one main connection per house. Ms. Matarazzo wanted to know how this got approved. They are asking that the borough put in the connection so they can have the lines separated. She insisted that the letter from George said we were responsible. Solicitor Eric Riso said the borough does not install any sewer connections for any homeowners. Our responsibility is for maintenance of the line from the curb line to the main. Ms. Matarazzo said that the borough approved this and Riso said it was 55 years ago and we don't even know if anyone came to the borough to get this approved. Mayor Wolk asked if they got an estimate for this work and Matarazzo said she had Archie's Plumbing come out and he said it would be \$3000-6000 but that does not include the connection. Commissioner Greenwald said we need to know if there are any more properties with a situation like that. The concern is if another resident comes in with the same problem, it could become a problem because they would want the same thing. Each connection could cost as much as \$5000. Matarazzo and Marville said they are willing to install the new lines but want the borough to take care of the connection to the main. Solicitor Riso reiterated that under the borough ordinance, the borough is not responsible for installing laterals. Engineer Federici said he will look at the old maps to see if this is a unique situation. Solicitor Riso said the borough could waive the connection fee. After more discussion back and forth, Mayor Wolk said we will have the engineer and the solicitor look at the situation and make a recommendation to the governing body. He asked the residents to give us a little time to look more closely at the situation.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion of the meeting was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon
Borough Clerk