

NOVEMBER 1, 2012, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 8:04pm.

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 Greenwald, Commissioner Gilmore and Mayor Wolk all present.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Borough Solicitor – Eric Riso
Borough Engineers – Joe Federici and Doug Akin
Borough Clerk – Terry Shannon
Tax Collector/Dep. Clerk – Marie Darlington
Police Captain—Brian Beppel

“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

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes from the September 25, 2012, Caucus and October 4, 2012, Commission meetings were approved with all in favor.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk read the voucher list total for the month is \$2,154,834.33. 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

There were no ordinances for public hearing or adoption.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk read the following ordinances for introduction:

Ord. 07-12 Amending Chapter 64, Peddling and Soliciting in the
Borough of Mount Ephraim

Ord. 08-12

Amending Ordinance 06-12, Cats, in the Borough Code

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the ordinances were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced these ordinances would be considered for adoption following a public hearing at the December 6 commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

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

- 92-12 Authorizing 2012 Budget Transfers
- 93-12 Authorization of Payment of 2011 Delinquent County Sewer Charges Collected By Mt. Ephraim On Behalf of the CCMUA
- 94-12 Authorizing Tax Adjustment Due to Assessor Changing the 2012 Block and Lot Identification of a Property (627 Charles Street)
- 95-12 Authorizing Transfer of Tax Credit Balance (Walgreen's)
- 96-12 Authorizing Tax Adjustments Due to Appeal (Seaman)
- 97-12 Authorizing Person-to-Person and Place-to-Place Transfer of Retail Consumption License Previously Held by the Darden's, Inc., t/a Spread Eagle
- 98-12 Authorizing Travel Advances for the NJSLOM Convention
- 99-12 Appointing Two Special Officers to the Mount Ephraim Police Department
- 100-12 Authorizing Refund of Escrow Balances (Harris and Coan)
- 101-12 Authorizing Shared Services Agreement with Camden County Relative to Snow Removal
- 102-12 Appropriating a Items of Revenue and Expense for Grants Received
- 103-12 Authorizing Advertisement of Requests for Proposals for Property Revaluation Services
- 104-12 Renewing Membership in the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund (HIF)

105-12 Requesting the NJ Department of Transportation Reduce the Speed Limit on the Black Horse Pike

106-12 Changing the Date and Times for Halloween Trick or Treating

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 BINGO LICENSES

There were no bingo or raffle licenses for approval.

REPORTS:

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Police Department monthly reports for October. Some of the offenses included 16 alarms, 3 burglaries, 5 criminal mischiefs, one death investigation, 4 disorderly persons, 5 domestic violence offenses, 8 drug offenses, 23 motor vehicle accidents, and assorted other offenses. Adult arrests for the month were 18. Fire department report for September was 35 calls for the month; 270 staff and 138 hours total. For October, there were 36 calls, 417 staff and 194 total hours. Halloween will be celebrated on Monday, from 3-7pm. After much thought, showing support for all those affected in New Jersey and Delaware who cannot celebrate Halloween, and if you take time out to think about all those who were so affected by the storm, it gives meaning and was the right decision. Also, during the past week and the hurricane, I want to thank the Police Department, Emergency Management, the Fire Department, Public Works, and EMS/MEPRI for their tremendous work during this storm. Right now we have a fire engine and four volunteer firemen in Manahawkin helping with recovery. They were then moved to Seaside Heights to help with gas leaks in that area. A great job by the Emergency Management who manned the office for two days. These are all volunteers and I want everyone in the borough to thank these folks for their great work. From my wife and I to all we wish everyone a Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Greenwald reported in Public Works there were no violations or incidents to report. Single stream recycling was over 75,000 pounds. Trash tonnage was 166 tons. They continue to maintain the ball fields and abandoned properties. Handled nine sewer calls and continued maintenance on police vehicles; did repair work on the overhead door at the Lambert Ave senior center and continued with the work on that facility; cleaned and repaired the roadside for the Hero to Hero 5K run and set up the barricades for the event; prepared for Hurricane Sandy; replaced the pump at Second Ave pump station; worked throughout the storm and cleaned up the town after the storm. Pioneer Pipe reports that the Bell Road intersection will be completed tomorrow. James Street still needs some more work and is expected to be done by next Friday. He then read a statement thanking Emergency Management, Police, Fire and Public Works for the outstanding job during Hurricane Sandy. The Emergency Management

team did an excellent job preparing everyone for the storm. Public Works cleared leaves from the storm inlets to prevent flooding and handled downed trees and maintained the pump stations during and after the storm. The Police kept everyone safe during the ordeal and the Fire Department camped at the firehouse around the clock handling calls. We have the volunteer departments in the State. Special kudos to the Fire Department for helping out with the recovery efforts in the shore area. Dan Tokolish, Sr., Ryan Holmes, John Lafferty and Nick DiPaolo have been dispatched to assist other fire departments in Ocean County and we extend a big hand to them. We moved Halloween to Monday and we know this did not make some people happy. The hurricane caused devastation for many throughout the State and moving trick or treating is nothing compared to the total picture of Hurricane Sandy.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that they submitted application to NJDOT for 2013 funding and our main request was for Roosevelt Avenue.

Mayor Wolk read the receipt totals from the Tax Collector report for the month of September, 2012. Total receipts were \$276,968.61. He then read a letter from Mt. Ephraim public schools thanking the fire department for educating the children and adults during fire safety week. He reported that we received one bid from Clear Channel who was the sole bidder for the lease of the billboard located at the West Center. This will allow us to secure a fifteen lease for a digital sign and we will receive \$60,000 this year as a signing bonus. We will then receive a minimum payment each year of \$89,000 rising by three percent per year. In year 2023, we may even get more depending on the net revenues. Taco Bell has been on the planning board schedule to discuss the Fantasy Showbar property. The Sunday before the storm hit, I attended the meeting of the emergency personnel and I knew we were in good hands. The people who protect the residents of this town are the best and the fact that they are volunteers is remarkable. We are blessed to have these kinds of volunteers and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Our workshop will be November 27 and the next regular meeting is December 6.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Jane White, 112 Grant Avenue, said there is also a 112 Grant Avenue in West Collingswood Heights and they use Mt. Ephraim post office. The mail is constantly being directed incorrectly and their mail is mixed up. She had problems with her homeowners insurance and when she called them, it turned out she was being charged for claims that were actually for the other address. She sent to Rob Andrews office and they said it is up to the Mayor. She went to the postmaster and he said there was nothing he could do. This problem has been going on for years and she needs help. Commissioner Greenwald said he is aware of this problem. West Collingswood has five streets that have the same name as streets in Mt. Ephraim. Rich Holmes of the fire

department said he has the same problem. He has had electric turned off, phone turned off and has concerns about 911 verification because of this problem. He was told it has to be handled by the postmaster. Mayor Wolk asked Solicitor Eric Riso for advice and he responded that the best the borough could do would be to write a letter to the postmaster and ask them to address the problem. Mayor Wolk responded we would send a letter to the postmaster and the Postmaster General asking that this be addressed.

Stan Witkowski asked about the transfer of the Spread license and to whom it is being transferred. The Clerk responded it was sold to a group of investors who intend to renovate it. Commissioner Gilmore said they will close after Thanksgiving for remodeling. The Clerk added that it will be more upscale with restaurant seating and will be greatly improved. He then asked about the resolution appointing two special officers. Captain Beppel responded that two of our specials got full-time jobs with other departments and we are replacing them. These are part-time officers. Commissioner Gilmore added that special officers are only paid for the hours they actually work and they can only exercise their powers within the borough. Their hourly rate is \$10.50. Mr. Witkowski then asked about the resolution authorizing an RFP for property revaluation. Mayor Wolk explained that we have been ordered to perform a revaluation of the whole town. The last one was done in 1997.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon,
Borough Clerk