

NOVEMBER 4, 2010, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 8:05pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

ABSENT

Commissioner Gilmore	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Greenwald	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Mayor Wolk	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

“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. September 28, 2010, Caucus Meeting
2. October 7, 2010, 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

Vouchers were submitted and the Bill List total of \$641,745.01 was submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the Bill List was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes, Wolk-yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

Mayor Wolk announced there would be a public hearing tonight on Ordinance 13-10. This ordinance will prohibit left turns from 4th Avenue onto the Black Horse Pike. The Clerk read the ordinance by title into the record: Ord. 13-10, Amending Chapter 94B, Traffic Ordinance, in the Borough Code. Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing. As there was 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, Ordinance 13-10 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes. The ordinance was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Mayor Wolk announced that we have two ordinances for introduction on first reading that would be advertised for public hearing at the December meeting. The Clerk read the ordinances by title into the record: Ordinance 14-10, Bond Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Providing for Acquisition of One Twenty (20) Yard Trash Truck and Appropriating the Sum of \$90,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Sum of \$85,500 in Bonds or Notes for the Financing of Said Appropriation.

Ordinance 15-10, Amending Bond Ordinances 11-08, 08-09, 09-09, 10-09 and 11-09 of the Borough of Mount Ephraim by the Reallocation of Certain Unfunded Appropriations Thereof to New Capital Projects in and for the Borough of Mount Ephraim and Permanently Canceling Certain Unfunded Appropriations Thereof.

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the ordinances were approved on first reading.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION 87-10 Authorizing Payment of Delinquent CCMUA Charges Collected by Mt. Ephraim

RESOLUTION 88-10 Canceling Taxes due on Block 32, Lot 1.31

- RESOLUTION 89-10 Authorizing Refund of a Construction Permit Fee
- RESOLUTION 90-10 Authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers
- RESOLUTION 91-10 Authorizing Travel Advances for Attendance at the NJSLOM 2010 Convention
- RESOLUTION 92-10 Appointing Robert Messick as Special Counsel to Prepare a Bond Ordinance and Bond Anticipation Note Relative to the Purchase of a Trash Truck with the Borough of Bellmawr
- RESOLUTION 93-10 Awarding a Contract to Pioneer Pipe for Repairs to the Sanitary Sewer Line at Kings Highway and Linden Avenue

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.

MERCANTILE LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS:

Mayor Wolk reported that we have two Mercantile License Applications for approval tonight: East Coast Martial Arts and Fitness, 61 W. Kings Highway, and Jersey Girls Gentleman's Club, 710 Black Horse Pike. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the mercantile license applications were approved with all in favor.

REPORTS:

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Fire Department and Police Department monthly reports for October. He added that the ordinance regarding the left hand turn from 4th onto the Black Horse Pike is needed to help make the intersection safer. There has been an increase in accidents there since the Wawa opened. You will be able to turn right but not left.

Commissioner Greenwald reported that there were no safety violations or accidents in Public Works and single stream recycling was over 82,000 pounds; DPW responded to six sewer calls in October; wet well at Second Avenue pump station was cleaned as a shared service with Bellmawr; hung banners along Kings Highway; repaired streets at Baird and Winthrop and Lowell and Garfield; set-up for the firehouse ground breaking; set-up for 5k Hero run. Leaf collection is beginning, signs will be posted.

Joe Federici, Borough Engineer, reported on the Delaware Avenue project. Concrete work and base paving are complete. Now that the contract was awarded to Pioneer Pipe, they will work with the contractor to have the sewer repairs at Linden Avenue and Kings Highway completed.

Mayor Wolk read highlights and receipt totals from the Tax Collector report for September. He reported that the fire department Christmas parade, which is the 16th annual, will be December 11 and he hopes to see everyone there. Next meeting will be November 23 for the caucus and December 2 for council. He wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Cheryl Huckaby and John Meyers from 3 Center Avenue rose to speak about vandalism. Their neighbor, Foluso Fakorede from 1 Center Avenue also rose to speak about vandalism. He said that they moved to Mt. Ephraim because he thought the town was welcoming but they have been experiencing vandalism. Tires slashed, spray painting on cars, all of which has been reported to the police. His neighbor's car has also been vandalized. On mischief night, a drunk driver hit his neighbor's cars. This was not related to the vandalism but has compounded the problem. He believes this situation is unacceptable and something needs to be done.

John and Cheryl added that there is a problem with speeding on Center Avenue and there are very young kids on the block.

Mayor Wolk thanked them for speaking. He was shocked when he heard about the vandalism problem. We pride ourselves on trying to keep this kind of problem to a minimum and this is a serious concern. He asked that they meet with Captain Beppel following the meeting so we can look into this further. As to the speeding problem, they have looked at speed bumps and have mixed reactions to them. We are currently looking at speeding problems on other streets and we will move Center Avenue up on the priority list.

Joe Kittel from 112 Gloucester Avenue and Laura Oehlert of 113 Gloucester Ave. spoke about the overgrown weeds on Gloucester Avenue and the railroad ties that are still there. There is a significant amount of poison ivy as well. This is a Conrail problem. Mayor Wolk said we would reach out to Conrail again and Commissioner Greenwald added that we would have DPW take a look at the situation to see if there is anything we can do as well. Mr. Kittel added that there is a problem with a trench in the street that fills up with water and causes the car to bottom out. Mayor Wolk asked Commissioner Greenwald to have DPW take a look at that problem as well.

Stan Alcavage, 15 Remington Avenue, spoke about the abandoned house across from him at 16 Remington. The house was stripped, there is water in the basement and the property is overgrown. It is in foreclosure. Mayor Wolk said we would have DPW go out there to see if there is anything we can do and that we would try to reach the property owners to have the problem rectified.

Tom Daily from George Street spoke about the intersection at E. Buckingham and Hill Streets. He has nearly been in accidents there because there is no stop sign and traffic fails to yield. He believes a stop sign is needed there. Commissioner Gilmore stated that he does not believe that intersection warrants a stop sign. There are specific motor vehicle laws that state when there is no stop sign, the vehicle on the right has the right-of-way. Stop signs on every street in town would not be feasible. Mr. Daily added that he was in the intersection first but the other driver cut him off causing him to swerve. He really believes a stop sign is needed. Commissioner Gilmore said we would look at the intersection to see if a stop sign is warranted or if there are other measures that could be employed to slow down traffic there.

Solicitor Joe Marrazzo asked the Mayor for a moment to report that he looked at our ordinance regarding the property at 16 Remington Avenue. The procedure is that the complaint has to be filed with the Clerk. He suggested that Mr. Alcavage come in to file the formal complaint with the Clerk to start the process of property maintenance and correction of an unsafe structure. Mr. Alcavage said he would be in tomorrow.

Mayor Wolk thanked everyone for coming out and on a motion by Commissioners Greenwald and Gilmore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Shannon
Borough Clerk