

**NOVEMBER 5, 2015, 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 and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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 – Jim Spratt
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 October 1, 2015, commission meeting, the August 25, 2015, caucus meeting and the July 28 closed session 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 \$816,461.56 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.

ORDINANCES

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinance is being introduced tonight on first reading: Ordinance 11-15, Amending Chapter 35, Bingos and Raffles, in the Borough Code. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of the ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes, Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk stated that this ordinance will be considered for adoption following advertisement and a public hearing to be held at the December 3 commission meeting.

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:

- 69-15 Appointing Tyler Covely as a Special Police Officer
- 70-15 Approving a Handicapped Parking Spot at 405 Gaskill Avenue
- 71-15 Authorizing Travel Advances for Attendance at the NJSLOM Conference
- 72-15 appropriating Items of Revenue and Expense for Grants Received
- 73-15 Waiving Interest and Fees on a Sewer Bill
- 74-15 Approving Right-of-Access Agreement with Phillips 66 Company

- 75-15 Authorizing a Settlement Agreement Relative to 29 Sartori Avenue
- 76-15 Authorizing Execution of a Service Agreement with Peterson Service Co.
- 77-15 Amending the Personnel Policy Handbook as Pertains to Vacation Leave
- 78-15 Authorizing Agreement with Gloucester City for Provision of Brine
- 79-15 Authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers

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.

MERCANTILE LICENSES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk announced that the following mercantile license is being approved tonight: Spread Eagle Tavern, 316 W. Kings Highway. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the license was approved with all in favor.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mt. Ephraim Police Department monthly report for October reporting that they had 490 calls and issued 269 case numbers. He then read highlights of the offenses and arrests. They issued 212 motor vehicle summonses. Gilmore then read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department report for October reporting they had 28 total incidents and read highlights of the calls. They had a total of 124 volunteer manhours. He announced that the MEFD 20th annual Christmas parade is December 12 starting at 7pm. Commissioner Gilmore thanked all veterans for their service with Veterans Day being next Wednesday. On behalf of he and his wife, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He added that this is the last official meeting for Chief Beppel. We will see him at the December meeting but he will no longer be the chief as he is retiring. Good things are ahead for the Chief and he thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that the Construction Office issued 22 permits for a total of \$4108.00. He then read highlights of the Public Works monthly report including trash and recycling statistics and reported on other activities performed by Public Works. We only have two more months going to Salem for trash disposal. They are raising their rates in 2016 so we will be going back to Camden. This past month we took 148 tons to Salem and 18 tons to Camden. We also received a complaint about graffiti at Norcross Park which had already been removed but DPW will go out there again. We met with Runnemedede to discuss possible leasing of their new trash truck and are working on an agreement. He added congratulations to Chief Beppel on his retirement.

Engineer Jim Spratt reported that the ramp improvements to borough hall are underway and on schedule. The Grant Avenue project plans are underway and is scheduled for construction in the spring. We submitted three applications for 2016 Local Aid funding for Lowell and Harding, Lincoln and we also submitted an application for a bikeway from Shining Star Park to the ballfields. All three were submitted on time and were acknowledged by DOT.

Mayor Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for October reporting that total receipts were \$907,899.84 and lien redemptions were \$586.48. He reported that we are adding a handicapped ramp to the front of borough hall. Leaf collection is underway and the schedule will be in the newsletter. We are working on the 2016 budget. We will be here again on November 24 for the workshop and December 3 for the public meeting. Mayor Wolk wished all residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Tom Daily from George Street stated he is disabled and struggling to pay his property taxes. He cannot afford home repairs. He needs a handicapped ramp on his house but does not have the money. He is looking for help. Mayor Wolk asked what kind of help he is requesting. His brother, Robert Daily, spoke saying that his brother is having difficulty meeting his tax obligation. He is asking for some remission of the taxes. Mayor Wolk said he does not know what we can do to help him but we will put our heads together. Clerk Shannon said he may qualify for the Camden County Home Improvement Program regarding needed home repairs. Mayor Wolk asked that the gentlemen give their contact information to the clerk after the meeting.

Sam Bonavita, 721 Lambert, spoke about the traffic situation at Hartka and Lambert. He has lived there for 40 years and seen an increase in traffic on Lambert and thinks speed is as much as 40-45 miles per hour. He is requesting a stop sign at the intersection, possibly a four-way but at the least a two-way. Chief Beppel said they are waiting to borrow the equipment so they can do a traffic study. Mr. Bonavita said we don't want to wait for a fatal accident before we act. He believes the intersection is dangerous. If a stop sign is not approved, perhaps a speed hump could be considered. Commissioner Tovinsky said we need to do the traffic survey before we make a determination and we will be doing so as soon as we can get the equipment.

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 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Shannon
Municipal Clerk