

**SEPTEMBER 3, 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 8:02pm 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 – Joseph Federici
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 August 6, 2015, commission meeting and the June 23, 2015, Caucus meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Commissioner Gilmore and Chief Beppel presented a plaque to Denise Watson, Crossing Guard Captain, for 22 years of service upon her retirement. Commissioner Gilmore said the crossing guards are out there in the dead of winter, rain, snow, sleet, etc., and carry stop signs for two hours every day because they are dedicated to the kids. They thanked her for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement to Florida.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,390,283.97 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 FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the ordinances for public hearing. The Clerk read as follows:

- Ord. 10-15 Bond Ordinance Authorizing Completion of Various Road and Related Improvements in the Borough of Mount Ephraim; Appropriating the Sum of \$247,000 Therefor; Authorizing Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Up to \$234,650, Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

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

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the ordinance was adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

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:

- 53-15 Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation in the 2015 Budget per NJSA 40A:4-48
- 54-15 Approving Renewal of Liquor Licenses for 2015-16 Term
- 55-15 To Adopt the Year 37 Community Development Block Grant Agreement
- 56-15 To Adopt the Year 36 Supplemental Funds CDBG Grant Agreement
- 57-15 Contract Award to Ed's Carpet Shop for Carpeting in Borough Offices
- 58-15 Contract Award to Staples Business Interiors for Tax Office Renovations
- 59-15 Refund of Overpayment on Taxes

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.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mt. Ephraim Fire Department monthly report for August. They had 29 total calls for the month including three drills, seven ambulance assists, 11 mutual aid, five motor vehicle accidents and two alarm systems. He then announced that the police report was not available as they lost their server and the IT people are working on getting it back up and running. He added that the Pope is coming to Philadelphia and NJDOT and the State Police have advised us to be prepared. Prepare for that weekend as traffic may be moving slowly. The Fire Company and Emergency Management will man the headquarters for that weekend. Commissioner Gilmore then reported that Harriet McCormack, life-long resident of Mount Ephraim, passed away and we extend our condolences to her family.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported Public Works took 111 tons of trash to Salem at a cost of \$5002.00 and 11 tons to Camden for \$660.00. They collected trash at parks and ballfields; ran the jetter through a sewer main; handled one sewer call; cut and week-wacked all the ballfields and along the railroad. We had problems with two of our trash trucks but they are running now. They repaired a sinkhole at the Firehouse in conjunction with Bellmawr. The speed humps are done and painted and the signs are up now.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that the pre-construction meeting for the Borough Hall ramp project will be September 16. NJDOT year 2016 was delayed and the applications are due October 20. The roads we submitted for consideration are Lincoln Avenue and Lowell & Harding. We will be working on the design and plans for Grant Avenue and Bell Road to Kings Highway and we expect to be done design and planning by the end of this year with construction in the spring of next year. Second Avenue is complete except for punch list items and the speed hump project is complete.

Mayor Wolk read the receipt totals from the Tax Collector report for the month of August 2015, reporting that total receipts were \$1,873,711.18 and lien redemptions were \$780.71. We will be here again September 22 for the caucus meeting and the commission meeting will be at 8:00pm October 1.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Resident Sam Bonavita, 721 Lambert, stated he believes there should be a stop sign at Lambert and Hartka. He has lived there for over 40 years and has seen numerous close calls there. With the 295 project, traffic is worse. He does not think we need a four-way stop sign but at least two. He has seen many close calls and it is getting worse. Commissioner Gilmore responded that you use statistics to support stop signs and the accidents there are nil. The law says that when you approach an intersection, the vehicle to the right has the right of way. That is the law that controls that intersection. We will take a look at it.

Wayne Boyd, 405 Gaskill Avenue, said if the man is saying there is a problem there, and he has lived there for 40 years, then there is probably a problem. We are just talking about a stop sign. He agrees that we need stop signs at intersections in the Borough. He then stated that he would like a handicapped parking spot in front of his house. He can't park in front of his own house, especially now that school is back because the teachers park in front of his house. Chief Beppel asked Wayne to send him a written request and they will look at the situation. He asked if he got one in front of his house, would it be just for him. Chief Beppel responded that no, it would be for anyone who is handicapped. Wayne added that the teachers are not using the parking lots and are parking on the street. Could we ask them to park in the lots? Chief Beppel said he would talk to the superintendent.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion of the meeting was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Shannon
Municipal Clerk