

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM AT 7:00PM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Tovinsky called the meeting to order with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the “Open Public Meetings Act” statement as it pertains to the current Covid-19 Public Health Emergency.

ROLL CALL

The Deputy Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gies, Commissioner Wolk and Mayor Tovinsky present. Also participating in the Zoom meeting for the Borough were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Greg Fusco, and Deputy Clerk Tara Weiss.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the minutes from the July 2, 2020, Zoom commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,171,798.81 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Gies second by Commissioner Wolk, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

The Deputy Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2020-12 Appropriating \$65,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Preliminary Costs Associated with the Cleveland Avenue Area Environmental Project

Ord. 2020-13 Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements in and for the Borough of Mount Ephraim; Appropriating the Sum of \$510,279 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$508,279, Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

Ord. 2020-14 Amending Chapter 94 Entitled “Animals” and Chapter 165 Entitled “Fees” in the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on these ordinances and asked for any questions or public comment. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the public hearing was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, ordinances 2020-12, 13, and 14 were finally adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The ordinances were duly adopted.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

The Deputy Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2020-15 Establishing the 2020 Salary for the Chief of Police Pursuant to Contract

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the ordinance was approved on first reading with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. Mayor Tovinsky announced that this ordinance will be posted for 30 days and will be considered for adoption at the September 3 commission meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

The Deputy Clerk read the following resolutions by title for approval by consent agenda:

- 55-20 Authorizing Cancellation of Various Improvement Authorization Balances
- 56-20 Authorizing the Borough Engineer to Proceed with Work Related to Various Capital Projects
- 57-20 Authorizing Liens Against Certain Properties for Costs Incurred by the Borough of Mount Ephraim in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
- 58-20 Authorizing the Borough of Mt. Ephraim to Enter into an Employment Agreement with the Police Chief

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. Resolution consent agenda was approved.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies read highlights from the monthly reports submitted by Municipal Court for June, and the Police and Fire Department monthly reports for the month of July. The police had 33 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. There were no juvenile arrests for the month.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector’s report for July 2020, reporting total receipts of \$1,048,567.19 and lien redemptions of \$25,433.51. We are interviewing for Rich Schwab’s spot so we hope to present a candidate at the next workshop. Rich is hanging on as long as he can. The office is still closed to the public but we are making appointments as needed. It has been working fine.

Borough Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., reported Pioneer Pipe started on Bell Road on August 3 and hopes to complete the pipe installation by the end of the month. Barrett is preparing to mobilize for the restoration of James Street the week of September 20. We met with Jim Beebe and inspected the drainage situation at Lowell, Harding and Winthrop Avenues during a heavy rain fall and will be submitting a report to the governing body. Mayor Tovinsky added that he had asked KEI Engineers to take a look at this problem to see if there is any way to solve it

Mayor Tovinsky read the monthly report from the Construction Office and Public Works. Single stream recycling was 81,760 pounds and trash tonnage was 213 tons for a cost of \$17,078.94. It is running high because so many people are still home. DPW cleaned up the parks and monuments and parks in town and cleared inlets to prepare for the storms. They set-up MEPRI for the election and installed Covid-19 signs installed at the playgrounds along with hand sanitizer stations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tovinsky opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the public portion was closed.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk