

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM  
BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the "Open Public Meetings Act" statement.

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gies, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Erika Vardaxis and Clerk Terry Shannon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING**

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the December 5, 2019, commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$238,218.32 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gies, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING**

Ord. 2020-01 Establishing 2020 Salaries for the Police Department Pursuant to the FOP Contract

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, Ord. 2020-01 was approved on first reading. Mayor Wolk announced that this ordinance will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held at the next commission meeting.

**RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the resolutions that are to be approved by Consent Agenda. She read them as follows:

- 01-20 Authorizing Execution of a Contract with FOP Lodge #76
- 02-20 Authorizing a Contract with Community Animal Care For ACO Services
- 03-20 Awarding a Contract to Richard T. Barrett Paving Co. for the James Street Project
- 04-20 Authorizing a Contract with FJMA for Financial Consultant Services
- 05-20 Authorizing an Agreement with Gloucester Twp for Brine
- 06-20 Amending the Personnel Policy Handbook to Add a Motor Vehicle Policy and a Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing Policy
- 07-20 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Barrington for Clerk's Services
- 08-20 Cancelling Interest Due on Certain Taxes

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

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Gies: Municipal Court report for November 2019—criminal charges filed were 44, criminal cases resolved were 101, traffic charges filed were 218, traffic cases resolved were 271, funds turned over to Mt. Ephraim were \$11,811.65. Fire Department report for December 2019—eight motor vehicle assists, two structure fires, three CO incidents, three wires, one alarm system, two PD assists, one vehicle fire and 11 mutual aid. Police Department report for December 2019—609 calls for service including 18 alarms, 50 ambulance calls, one assault, one overdose, 14 MV crashes, eight shopliftings among others. Officers issued 152 motor vehicle assaults and served 25 warrants. They had 27 adult arrests and he read highlights of the arrests. He stated that it was a very nice parade this year and he thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and everyone else involved.

Commissioner Tovinsky: Construction office report for December, 2019—they issued 19 permits for a total of \$3,994, and eight resale CO's for a total of \$960. For the year they issued 233 permits for a total of \$44,472 and 19 vacant property registrations for a total of \$19,869. Resale CO's for the year were 111 for a total of \$13,320. For Public Works—single stream recycling was 79,540 pounds and trash tonnage was 174 tons for a cost of \$13,582. They collected 5520 pounds of metal for \$241. Leaf season has come too an end so leaves need to be bagged. They set-up the state for the parade, hung the holiday banners, installed a fence at the outlet at Shining Star Park. He thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works for one of the best parades ever.

Engineer Erika Vardaxis from Federici and Akin reported on the following items:

- NJDOT James Street project—we just awarded the contract so we will be coordinating with them as to the start time—will most likely be in March. NJAW will be working on the sewer in advance.
- Discretionary Aid Bell Road drainage project will be advertised for bids as soon as we get County approval.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for December 2019, reporting total receipts of \$580,212.20 and lien redemptions of \$85,252.35. He thanked everyone for their participation in the parade—a fine job was done by all. We will be here again on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January for our workshop and on February 6 at 7pm. We are continuing to work on the 2020 budget and hope to introduce in March.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Stan Witkowski from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked about the contract for the financial consultant and the Mayor answered that he has been with us for several years now and does a good job for us. Witkowski then asked about the gas station property at the corner and if it has been sold. The governing body responded that we have not heard any news. Witkowski asked about the Sacred Heart church property and has there been any movement on that property. Mayor Wolk responded that we added them back to the tax rolls and they paid the taxes. We don't have any information as to a potential sale yet. There was some interest but the pizza place did not want to sell which stopped the sale. Witkowski asked about the paving of Kings Highway and the governing body responded that is a County road and we will ask them.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the public hearing was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk