

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

**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 as it pertains to the current Covid-19 State of Emergency.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING**

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the May 7, 2020, Zoom 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 \$2,034,969.75 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**

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the following ordinances which she read as follows:

- 2020-06      Establishing the July, 2020 Salaries of Police Department Employees Pursuant to the Contract with FOP Lodge #76
- 2020-07      Establishing the 2020 Salaries of Certain Employees of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements
- 2020-08      Establishing the 2020 Salaries of Non-union Employees and Officials of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 2020-09      Authorizing the Sale of Certain Mount Ephraim Borough Owned Property Pursuant to an Asset and Purchase Agreement with NJAW Co.
- 2020-10      Authorizing the Sale of Certain Mount Ephraim Borough Owned Property Pursuant to an Asset and Purchase Agreement with NJAW Co.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, first reading of these ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

Mayor Wolk announced that these ordinances will be posted for 30 days and will be considered for adoption at the July 2 commission meeting.

**RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the resolutions that are to be approved by Consent Agenda which she read as follows:

- 38-20      Authorizing the Tax Collector to Process Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bills
- 39-20      Adopting the 3-Year Cooperation Agreement with the County of Camden
- 40-20      Certification of Compliance with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

- 41-20 Authorizing Self-Examination of the 2020 Municipal Budget
- 42-20 Authorizing the Budget to be Read by Title at the Time of Public Hearing
- 43-20 Resolution of Gratitude to PSE&G for Storm Assistance Provided

Clerk Shannon read resolution 43-20 in full recognizing PSE&G for their assistance with recovery from severe windstorms.

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.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on the municipal budget. He explained that the budget is a plan of action for our perception of the will and needs of the people. There is a slight increase this year but no one is getting laid-off and we can continue to provide services to our residents. Seeing no public comment on the budget, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Tovinsky, the public hearing on the budget was closed. Then on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the 2020 Municipal Budget was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

### **REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Gies read highlights from the monthly reports submitted by Municipal Court for April, and the Police and Fire Department monthly reports for the month of May. He reported that the fire department was out yesterday for down trees but it was not as bad as the previous storm. He read highlights of the police calls and arrests for the month. Everybody is doing a great and safe job during this difficult time.

Commissioner Tovinsky read highlights from the monthly reports submitted by Public Works and the Construction Office. Trash tonnage is still up substantially because of everyone being home. We did have a tree come down yesterday at the borough garage but it is on the ground so we don't need to have it cut down—just cut-up and removed. It has an electrical line in the tree so we are waiting for PSE&G to come out. We still have only 24 cases of the Corona virus in town and sadly one death. We have done a lot of work addressing trees down with our own people.

Borough Engineer Greg Fusco reported that we had the pre-construction meeting for Bell Road yesterday. Contractor would like to start right after the July 4 holiday and expects to be done in four to six weeks. Still waiting to hear from Barrett on James Street and when they plan to start. Commissioner Gies asked if there will be an overlap with James and Bell happening at the same time and Greg responded he does not think so—both contractors are cooperating. Commissioner Tovinsky reported that we decided that Lake Street is our first priority for financial aid from the state. Greg said he also contacted PSE&G to see if they will assist with reconstruction of Lake Street. Richard Schwab added that Greg is submitting new proposals for their work for the DOT projects.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for May 2020, reporting total receipts of \$2,003,203.60 and lien redemptions of \$34,375.87. He thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He announced that we are officially cancelling the July 4 parade. We are not happy about it but we feel it is in the best interest of all involved. Tonight is the "Light up the Night" at 8:30 in recognition of racial injustice. Please step-out onto your lawn and light a candle. We meet here again on June 23 for our workshop and July 2 at 7 for the general meeting. We will see if it will be Zoom or not. We are bringing employees back to the hall but will remain closed for now to the public. That will be the next phase and a lot of people throughout the County are discussing this. He talked about the July 7 election and how it will be handled. We need to get that information on the website. It will be just a vote by mail election and the only people who can vote at MEPRI are disabled voters

who could not vote by mail. Boardworkers will be wearing face masks but voters are not required to. There will also be vote by mail ballot dropboxes at six locations in Camden County.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Rich Holmes from MEFD reported that they will be doing the wreath placement on July 4 and will be doing the bellringing at 2pm. We will be discussing the details and will coordinate with the police department.

Commissioner Gies added that the Memorial Day video was great and was very well received by the community. Rich responded they were grateful to be able to do it and have heard a lot of good things from the community. Mayor Wolk added his thanks for putting that together and it was a great job done by all involved.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the public portion was closed.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk