

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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 August 6, 2020, Zoom commission meeting and the August 25, 2020, Zoom caucus 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 \$1,401,626.34 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 Mayor read the following ordinances by title:

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

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on this ordinance 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, ordinance 2020-15 was finally adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The ordinance was duly adopted.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 59-20 Authorizing a Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 60-20 Appointing James Burleigh as Fire Sub-Code Official
- 61-20 Approving Change Order No. 1, Bell Road Drainage Project
- 62-20 Appointing Paul Thomas as Deputy CFO
- 63-20 Approving Mercantile Licenses

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 August monthly reports submitted by the Mount Ephraim Fire Department and the Police Department. The police had 26 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. There were no juvenile arrests for the month. Chief Conte will explain the one incident we have involving a crash. Chief Conte explained that Officer Severance was involved in accident where a motorist pulled out from a stop sign right into him. There were no injuries but there

is damage to our police vehicle. As it was the other motorist's fault, we should have no out-of-pocket costs. Chief Conte then added that we held the second annual Cops and Bobbers event and it was a great night for all.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for August 2020, reporting total receipts of \$2,389,663.97 and lien redemptions of \$46,460.16. The tax sale is scheduled for October 14 at 10am. We have 134 properties in the sale now and 108 are for CCMUA. The budget workshop will start in October and we will all get to meet our new Deputy CFO Paul Thomas. We think he will be in the same mold as Richard Schwab.

It was discussed that the next caucus meeting will be on a Wednesday, August 23 at 3:00pm. Commissioner Gies cannot make it on Tuesday so the meeting is moving to Wednesday.

Borough Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., reported the storm pipe has been installed on Bell Road and the trench has been temporarily restored and the contractor will return in late October or early November to mill and overlay. We also processed voucher and change order No. 1 for this project. We are waiting to hear back from Richard Barrett to get started on James Street as Bell Road is done. Mayor Tovinsky said that in between Grant Avenue and Liberty we have a pothole that is sinking. It would only take Pioneer Pipe to fix it. Could you please reach out to them to get this fixed. Chief Conte reported that someone topped it today.

Mayor Tovinsky reported that they saw PSE&G cutting into Northmont Avenue today and they are going to asphalt twelve feet on either side. Cops and Bobbers was phenomenal and the kids had a blast. He asked if the caucus meeting will be in-person and everyone agreed. We will also do Zoom for anyone who does not want to be in-person. He then read the Construction Office report and they issued 17 permits and 14 CO's. Public Works single stream recycling was 66,600 pounds and trash tonnage was down to 167 tons. He then read highlights of Public Works activities. He then asked the Clerk if NJAW was supposed to provide electric for cameras at Shining Star Park but the Clerk said they did not agree to that. She thought there was electricity on the pole. Mayor Tovinsky said he will look into this.

The Clerk then asked police and fire to make sure they send their monthly report to her so it can be included with the minutes.

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.

Mayor Tovinsky wished everyone a happy Labor Day. He will be performing his first wedding. Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk