

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021, 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 at 7:01pm with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the "Open Public Meetings Act" statement pursuant to recent Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey due to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. He also stated that meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice and read the instructions on how participants can ask questions via Zoom. He stated that participants can also email questions in advance to the Borough Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of \$787,409.28 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.

**ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

The Clerk read the following ordinance by title:

Ord. 2021-01 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of a Trash Truck for the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$100,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$95,000, Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-01. He asked participants to raise their "virtual" hand to ask a question and they will be unmuted. Please state your name for the record. Comments are limited to five minutes per person.

Seeing no public question or comment, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the public hearing on this ordinance was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, ordinance 2021-01 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

The Clerk then read the following ordinance by title:

Ord. 2021-02 Adopting Revised Stormwater Management Control Regulations in Accordance with the NJDEP Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit Requirements

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-02. He asked participants to raise their "virtual" hand to ask a question and they will be unmuted. Please state your name for the record. Comments are limited to five minutes per person.

Seeing no public question or comment, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the public hearing on this ordinance was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, ordinance 2021-02 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING**

The Clerk read the following ordinance by title:

Ord. 2021-03 Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. Mayor Tovinsky announced that this ordinance will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the March 4, 2021, commission meeting.

**RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk Shannon read the following resolutions for approval by consent agenda:

- 21-16 Authorizing Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes
- 21-17 Authorizing the Use of the Average of the Prior Three Years Revenues in Anticipating the amount of Revenues to be Received by Municipal Court in CY 2021
- 21-18 Approving a Temporary Budget for Debt Service
- 21-19 Authorizing Transfers of Appropriation Reserves
- 21-20 Waiving the Bingo & Raffle Fees for MEPRI
- 21-21 Awarding a Contract to Trucks and Parts of Glenmore, PA, for Purchase of a Used Trash Truck

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 December Court report. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$3,821.67. He then read highlights from the January Fire Department report from our Chief Aaron Holmes. They had a total of 34 calls and four drills. He also reported they are having a hoagie sale Saturday, February 13. Commissioner Gies then read highlights from the Police Department report for January. They answered 438 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They made 43 car stops and issued 31 motor vehicle summonses. He reported they had 21 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. He then reported we have been doing well with Covid cases in town. The state is loosening up the reins a little as a result. Everyone keep up the good work and keep wearing your mask and doing social distancing. Little League and Softball are having their sign-ups for the whole month of February. We are following all the Covid rules during sign-ups.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for January 2021, reporting total receipts of \$629,605.37 and one lien redemption of \$31,611.52. He said we are in the process of having the audit done. Paul Thomas, myself and Rob Inverso will meet to go over the budget for 2021. He thanked Paul for the work he is doing and added he is doing a great job.

Mayor Tovinsky reported that Greg Fusco, Jr., is on this evening but there is not much going on right now. James Street is done. We are looking into a couple things that we will bring up next month. That wraps up the engineer report.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office report for January. They had 10 permits for a total of \$5,779.00, six vacant property registrations for \$10,041.67 and 13 resale CO's for \$1,560.00. Public Works had single stream recycling of 63,340 pounds. Next April our contract with the County for recycling will run out. Right now we are paying \$5.00 per ton but it could go up to

\$90.00 per ton for recycling. There is a group of mayors who are looking at other options. Trash tonnage was 180 tons for a cost of \$15,015.06 to Camden, and they picked up 8140 pounds of metal \$734.00 in revenue. Public Works put brine down for the storms and it seems to be working well. We received bids for a used trash truck and there was only one bidder and that was Trucks and Parts. We had eight trucks out plowing and salting after the storms and we have gotten a lot of compliments about the job they did. The total cost including overtime and materials was \$5,146.82 and good job by Jim Beebe and his whole crew. Happy Valentines Day to everybody.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Tovinsky opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name for the record.

Mike Rossano thanked Public Works for the awesome job they did with the snowstorm. He asked if there is any update on the Lidl project—have they worked out anything with Tony Roni's. Mayor Tovinsky said it is still in the hands of the lawyers. The Catholic Church was removing some items from the church. As far as all the legal stuff, we have not heard any updates yet.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:25pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk