

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 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 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.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the minutes from the December 3, 2020, commission meeting and the December 29, 2020, 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 \$701,796.73 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 INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

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

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

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 21-01 Designating Departments of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 21-02 Designating Department Directors
- 21-03 Designating Officers and Employees of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 21-04 Designating Appointments to Borough Positions
- 21-05 Designating the Official Depository
- 21-06 Designating Official Newspapers
- 21-07 Appointing the Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner to the SNJREBF Fund
- 21-08 Appointing the Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner to the JIF Fund

- 21-09 Authorizing Signing of an Agreement for 2021 with Community Animal Care Services
- 21-10 Approving a Temporary Budget for the Year 2021
- 21-11 Approving a Temporary Capital Budget for the Year 2021
- 21-12 Authorizing Participation in the Camden County Contract for Solid Waste Disposal
- 21-13 Resolution to the NJ Turnpike Authority in Support of an Interchange at Exit 3 for Direct Access onto Route 42 in the Boroughs of Runnemede and Bellmawr
- 21-14 Approving Change Order No. 2 for the Bell Road Drainage Project
- 21-15 Authorizing the Tax Assessor to File, Stipulate and Settle Both Regular and Added/Omitted Tax Appeals and Roll Back Tax Complaints for the Borough of Mount Ephraim

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 November Court report. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$6,777.64. He then read highlights from the December Fire Department report from our new chief Aaron Holmes. They had a total of 39 calls. He also reported they are having a hoagie sale this week. Commissioner Gies then read highlights from the Police Department report for December. He read highlights of the calls and reported they had 17 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. He reminded everyone to be careful with this virus, wear your mask and do social distancing. We lost a great man, Shorty Eggers, due to this virus.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for December, 2020, reporting total receipts of \$356,165.35 and lien redemptions of \$27,167.47. He thanked the governing body for reappointing him to the JIF and the HIF. We get money back from managing our healthcare and commercial insurance. We are trying to get vaccinations for the residents of the West Center. We lost Bill Eggers who was a commissioner from 1991-2003. He served with me and we extend condolences to his family. We would like to recognize him around Memorial Day along with Joe Conley.

Borough Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr. reported Barrett returned today to work on the ponding that was occurring on James Street. The intersections have been milled and the paving is scheduled for tomorrow. The Mayor asked how his dad was feeling since he had Covid and Fusco responded that he is getting better.

Mayor read highlights from the Construction Office report for December. They had 11 permits for a total of \$1698.00, one vacant property registration for \$1500.00 and resale CO's nine for \$1080.00. He then read the year-end report as well. Public Works had single stream recycling of 109,000 pounds, trash tonnage of 201 for a cost of \$16,101.11 to Camden, picked up 6200 pounds of metal and leaf collection is done. They salted for the December 16 snow storm and removed the broken wheelchair lift from the tax office. Mayor Tovinsky added he has been speaking with Lynn Rosner at the County to see if we can get them vaccinated. She will get back to him. He added his condolences about the loss of Shorty Eggers. He was a really great guy and a family man and will be sorely missed.

Clerk Shannon reported that in resolution 21-04, we did have a few new appointments. Aaron Holmes as fire chief, John Lafferty as deputy fire chief, David Munoz as fire sub-code official and Jim Beebe as recycling coordinator.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Stan Witkowski from Fourth Avenue asked about the status of the negotiations for the Sacred Heart Church properties. Mayor Tovinsky said the lawyers are working on getting the deal done. Witkowski asked if there is anything that could prevent this from happening and Mayor Tovinsky responded that again, it is going through all the lawyers. We don't have any new information at this time but as soon as we do, we will share it. We signed the agreement of sale. Witkowski then asked about vacant property registrations. Clerk Shannon explained that it is an ordinance. Any vacant property has to register with the borough. By statute, the mortgage company is required to notify of us of the foreclosure and who the local property management property is. She added that the ordinance is in our online code and the attorney added it is Chapter 406. Witkowski then asked about the old cleaners on Kings Highway. It has a sold sign on it. Mayor Tovinsky responded we don't know who bought it. Commissioner Gies said we had a leak problem out there and the police responded. Chief Conte said the new owner has not made any application to the borough yet so we don't know what kind of business is going in there at this time. Witkowski then said he was in the Wawa in Collingswood and was charged ten cents for a plastic bag. Those funds go to the borough. Have we looked into something like this? Commissioner Gies said the state will be banning plastic bags soon and it will be in less than a year.

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 7:41pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk