

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
IN-PERSON MEETING HELD IN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM AND 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 in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” and 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.

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Tovinsky announced that we have a resolution for approval, Resolution 70-20, Appointing Joseph Vogt as a Patrolman to the Mount Ephraim Police Department. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the resolution was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The Governing Body stepped off the dais and Mayor Tovinsky administered the Oath of Office to Officer Vogt.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Governing Body presented a clock to Richard Schwab to thank him for his years of service to the Borough. Richard was the financial consultant for the past twelve years and helped us tremendously with the budget and the building of the firehouse. We thank him for his years of service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the minutes from the October 1, 2020, Zoom commission meeting and the October 27, 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 \$1,194,615.25 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 INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Clerk Shannon announced that Ordinance 2020-17, Amending Ordinance 2020-14, Amending Chapter 94, Entitled “Animals” and Chapter 165, Entitled Fees, is being introduced on first reading. This ordinance extends the late date for dog licensing to November 30. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the ordinance was approved on first reading with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. This ordinance will be considered for adoption after a public hearing to be held during the December 3 commission meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 71-20 Appointing Hunter Sawicki as a Special Policar to the MEPD
- 72-20 Certification of the 2019 Audit Report

- 73-20 Authorizing Participation in the Camden County Contract for Sodium Chloride and Liquid Enhanced Sodium Chloride
- 74-20 Authorizing a Person-to-Person and Place-to-Place Transfer of Liquor License 0425-33-006-009, Held by Evergreen Investment Group, LLC
- 75-20 Re-appointing Krisden McCrink as Municipal Court Judge for a Three-Year Term
- 76-20 Authorizing a Closed Session to Discuss Attorney/Client Privileged Contract Matters

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 September Court report. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$6,238.34. He then read highlights from the October Fire Department report. They will be having a hoagie sale on Saturday, November 14. Commissioner Gies then read highlights from the Police Department report for October. He read highlights of the calls and reported they had 29 adult arrests and one juvenile arrest.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for October, 2020, reporting total receipts of \$1,170,292.55 and lien redemptions of \$47,354.17. He then reported that the tax sale was held on October 14 at 10am. There were 36 properties that went to sale and all were sold. 33 went for premiums and we collected \$87,800 in premiums. He also mentioned that the shredding event is Saturday, November 21 from 9am to noon. Residents can bring their documents to be shredded. Borough offices are still closed to the public but we can provide all services and you can reach the staff by email or phone. They are meeting with residents by appointment.

Borough Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr. reported the milling operation on James Street was completed on Monday and Tuesday and they are preparing for paving on Friday including the speed bumps.

Mayor read highlights from the Construction Office report for October. He then reported that single stream recycling was 81,440 pounds and trash tonnage was 194 tons. Haddon Tree removed 13 dead trees from the dead end of Sixth Avenue. They were infested with spotted lanternflies. Starting October 26, DPW started leaf collection. We will be going out for bid for a used trash truck in December. James Street paving will be done tomorrow and we will be putting Idora and Charles out for bid in December or January. Saturday, December 12 will be the Christmas fire truck parade. Just the parade—no public event afterwards.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tovinsky opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. Stan Witkowski from Fourth Avenue asked about the properties on Center Street that had the fire. Mayor Tovinsky said the properties have been cleared but we don't know what their exact plans are yet but he does plan to rebuild. Witkowski then asked about the properties on Northmont. Mayor Tovinsky responded there will be four homes built there. They can't tie into the sewer yet because that street was just done a few years ago. Witkowski then asked about the former gas station on Black Horse Pike and Mayor Tovinsky said there has been some interest but the owner is asking a ridiculous price. Witkowski asked if we know when the bar that is being constructed will be done and Mayor Tovinsky responded that the owner does not know yet. Witkowski then asked if the borough has established any remediation regarding the lanternflies and the Mayor responded that you need to call the County under the Mosquito Commission.

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