

**THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 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 7:08pm 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 Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 4, 2021, Commission meeting and February 23, 2021, Caucus meeting minutes were on for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Clerk Shannon announced that vouchers in the amount of \$832,764.27 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. 2021-04 Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Borough Owned Real Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (Block 12, Lot 1.03, a Portion of 33 Second Avenue)

Clerk Shannon explained this ordinance transfers a small piece of land adjacent to 33 Second Avenue and we are deeding it to the homeowner. Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-04. 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 Wolk, second by Commissioner Gies, ordinance 2021-04 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. 2021-05 Adding Chapter 340 Entitled "Smoking and Vaping on Public Property" to the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the first reading of Ordinance 2021-05 was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. Mayor Tovinsky stated this ordinance will be considered for adoption at the May 6 commission meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 21-29 Introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 21-30 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Somerdale Relative to Trash Collection
- 21-31 Appointing Members to the Mount Ephraim Fire Department
- 21-32 Awarding a Contract to Richard T. Barrett for the Idora Avenue Project
- 21-33 Authorizing a Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes
- 21-34 Authorizing Refunds of Tax Overpayments Resulting from NJ Homestead Rebates
- 21-35 Authorizing and Directing the Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation to Determine Whether the Proposed Study Area Which Includes Block 34, Lot 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.01, 9.02, 10, 11, 12 and 19 Located at or Near the Intersection of Kings Highway and the Black Horse Pike are to be Delineated as an Area in Need of Condemnation Redevelopment Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq>)
- 21-36 Authorizing Submission of the 2021 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
- 21-37 Authorizing the Use of Average of the Prior Three Years Revenues in Anticipating the Amount of Revenue to be Received by Municipal Court in CY 2021
- 21-38 Transferring Vehicles No Longer Needed for Borough Use to the Fire Department

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 February Court report. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$4,851.30. He then read highlights from the Police Department report for March. They answered 671 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They also issued 122 motor vehicle summonses and served 16 warrants. He reported they had 22 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. He reminded people that we are having issues with cars being left unlocked. Make sure you lock your car doors. For the Mount Ephraim Fire Department, they had three structure fires, five MVA's, 25 mutual aid calls and others for a total of 36 calls and three drills. On April 3 they will begin their Easter Bunny parade driving up and down every street. Also on April 10 they will hold their hoagie sale. All proceeds will go to the McCausland family from Audubon.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for March 2021, reporting total receipts of \$364,489.08 and lien redemptions for a total of \$66,605.77. We are introducing the budget tonight and will hold the public hearing next month. There will be a modest increase this year and all services will continue and no one will be laid off. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and hopes to see everyone on April 10 for Little League opening day.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Public Works report for March. They collected 62,680 pounds of recycling and trash was 187 tons for a cost of \$15,568.67. We have a beaver issue along Little Timber Creek. DPW removed two beaver dams that were causing flooding in residents' yards. We are working on funding for drainage improvements at the Shining Star park intersection. Roof was repaired above the courtroom; DPW turned the water back on at all the ballfields; reported outages to PSE&G; made gutter repairs at Easy Street. For the Construction Office, they issued 32 permits for \$7,870.00 and had five resale CO's for \$600.00. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and announced that we awarded the Idora Avenue project to Barrett.

Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., said all they had to report was the contract award to Barrett. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tovinsky opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name for the record. Please raise your virtual hand and you will be unmuted.

Stan Witkowski asked about trash collection for tomorrow and was told trash will be collected as usual. He asked if we contacted any agency about relocating the beavers. Mayor Tovinsky said this just happened and we have not had a chance to look into it yet. Witkowski then asked about the resolution associated with the property condemnation and Solicitor Strausser responded this is one of the first steps in the process. Witkowski then asked about the asbestos in the buildings and Mayor Tovinsky responded we are still doing some legal work. We will be doing testing as soon as we can get in the buildings. Witkowski asked about the former gas station across the Pike and is there any action the town can take regarding zoning violations and commercial vehicles being parked there. Mayor Tovinsky said the owner lives in California and we have no idea what she is doing with the property. We are not aware of any zoning violations. Chief Conte said the vehicles being parked were owned by South State who was in town doing street work and parked vehicles there temporarily. Witkowski then said it is good advice to lock up your vehicles. We had someone enter my wife's vehicle recently so make sure you keep your vehicles secured.

Clerk Shannon added that regarding the former gas station property, that would not be zoning violations—it could be property maintenance. If there are any property maintenance issues, we can send Steve Beach out there. She added that regarding the condemnation resolution, the law has changed and we have to include that working when doing a redevelopment project. Also some of the lots were missing from the original redevelopment plan and this will clean that up.

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 at 7:31pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk