

**THURSDAY, MARCH 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 Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 7, 2021, Commission meeting, January 26, 2021, Caucus meeting minutes and February 4, Commission meeting. 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 \$1,956,631.14 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. 2021-03 Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-03. 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 2021-03 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. 2021-04 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)

The Clerk explained this pertains to a small parcel between 33 Second Avenue and the lake and the homeowner has been paying property taxes on the parcel. 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 April 1, 2021, commission meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 21-22 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Camden County Improvement Authority
- 21-23 Authorizing Renewal of Mercantile Licenses for 2021
- 21-24 Appointing Leslie Baechler from TTI Environmental as the LSRP for the Borough Hall Tank Removal Project
- 21-25 Authorizing the Borough Engineer to Advertise for Bids for the Following Projects: Roadway Improvements for Idora and Charles Avenues and Roadway Improvements for Linden and Adams Avenues
- 21-26 Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application for Camden County Open Space Funds and Execution of the Agreement
- 21-27 Authorizing a One Year Renewal of the Shared Service Agreement with Brooklawn for Building Sub-Code Official Services
- 21-28 Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Camden County for Mutual Aid Assistance between Participating Units

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 January Court report. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$4,464.52. He then read highlights from the February Fire Department report from Chief Aaron Holmes. They had a total of 45 calls and three drills. He also reported they did very well on their hoagie sale. Commissioner Gies then read highlights from the Police Department report for February from Chief Conte. They answered 411 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They also issued 39 motor vehicle summonses and served four warrants. He reported they had 12 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. That concluded his report.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for February 2021, reporting total receipts of \$2,601,796.83. He also read the Tax Collector's annual report for 2020 reporting total receipts of \$14,328,158.48. That concluded his report.

Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., reported that the plans and specs for the Idora Avenue project have been submitted to NJDOT for their approval. Bids will be received March 18 and we will prepare our recommendation of award for review at the March caucus meeting.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office report for February. They issued 14 permits for a total of \$3,344.00, one vacant property registrations for \$3,000.00 and 2 resale CO's for \$240.00. Public Works collected single stream recycling of 64,960 pounds and 145 tons of trash for a cost of \$12,045.00. Our costs went down from the prior months. We have a major leak on the borough hall and Advantage Roofing is giving us a price for repairs. We had multiple snow and ice storms that Public Works handled well. We will be repairing potholes after the weather breaks.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Stan Witkowski thanked Public Works for their jobs in handling the storms and clearing our streets. He then asked about an event that occurred on 4th Avenue. He heard it was a barricaded

individual. Chief Conte replied we cannot comment on an ongoing investigation. Witkowski then asked if there has been any progress on the sale of Sacred Heart Church. Mayor Tovinsky responded we requested a 60-day extension while we perform additional environmental work involving possible asbestos, underground storage tank and possible contamination. Witkowski asked if the supermarket is still interested and Mayor Tovinsky said we have not spoken to them yet until we make settlement. Clerk Shannon explained that we will not be dealing with the supermarket. Once we make settlement, we will sell to the developer and they will sell to whomever will be going there. We have not yet made settlement. Once we get the results of the environmental study, we will make arrangements to go to settlement with the Church. Witkowski then asked about the former cleaners on Kings Highway. Commissioner Gies responded it has been sold. Mayor Tovinsky added we don't know to whom it was sold and what they plan to do with the property.

Mike Rossano said the town raised money for Public Works this month that they would like used for the guys to thank them for their hard work. Clerk Shannon responded he can submit a check and it will be used in the Public Works budget. Mayor Tovinsky thanked him for doing that.

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 7:28pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk