

**THURSDAY, MAY 6, 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 7:03pm 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 Stuart Platt and Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 23, 2021, Caucus meeting, April 1, 2021, Commission meeting minutes were submitted for review and 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 \$2,055,660.32 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. 2021-05 Adding Chapter 340 Entitled “Smoking and Vaping on Public Property” to the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim

Clerk Shannon explained this ordinance establishes rules and regulations for smoking and/or vaping on all public property. Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-05. 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 2021-05 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. 2021-06 Ordinance Appropriating \$25,000 from the Capital Fund Balance for Additional Costs Associated with the Cleveland Avenue Area Environmental Project

Ord. 2021-07 Ordinance to Amend the Borough Code to Create a New Chapter 86 Entitled Cannabis, Cannabis Products and Cannabis Related Businesses to Prohibit the Operation of any Class of Cannabis Businesses within its Geographical Boundaries

Clerk Shannon explained that this ordinance to prohibit cannabis facilities is just to give the Governing Body more time to look at the whole issue. Solicitor Platt added that this is just a temporary measure so there is more time to look at the whole issue and to get input from the Land Use Board. 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 June 3, 2021, commission meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 21-41 Authorizing the Budget to be Read by Title at Time of Public Hearing
- 21-42 Certification of Compliance with the U.S. EEOC "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
- 21-43 Change Order No. 3-Final for Bell Road Drainage Project
- 21-44 Authorizing Approval of Mercantile Licenses for 2021
- 21-45 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 21-46 Awarding a Contract to Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc., for the Linden Avenue Reconstruction Project (partially funded by the NJDOT Municipal Aid Program)
- 21-47 Resolution Designating Professional Appointments
- 21-48 Awarding a Contract to Axon Enterprise, Inc., for a Body Worn Camera System
- 21-49 Resolution Authorizing In Rem Foreclosure of Municipally Held Tax Sale Certificates

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.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on the 2021 Budget. He asked if there are any questions on the Budget. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the public hearing on the Budget was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the Budget was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The Budget was adopted. The Governing Body thanked Paul Thomas for all of his work on the Budget.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies read highlights from the March Court report. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$8,985.51. He then read highlights from the April Fire Department report from Chief Aaron Holmes. They had four structure fires, seven motor vehicle accidents, seven gas leaks, 28 mutual aid calls and six cover assignments including one during the forest fire. They also had three drills. Commissioner Gies then read highlights from the Police Department report for April from Chief Conte. They answered 603 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They also had 183 vehicle stops and issued 86 motor vehicle summonses and they served five warrants. He reported they had 44 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges and there was one juvenile arrest for trespassing. That concluded his report.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for April 2021, reporting total receipts of \$636,408.19. We had lien redemptions totaling \$6,464.50. He reported we will be losing our Tax Collector, Dottie Jones as she will be retiring as of June 30 and he read the letter she submitted. He added that Kim Beebe will be taking over and we will be in good hands. Commissioner Wolk then added we got a letter from NJDOT about Municipal Aid and the engineer will be making a recommendation as to what we should submit. He then thanked the Fire Department for taking the Easter Bunny all around town. We heard the sirens going for five hours!

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office report for April. They issued eight permits for a total of \$1,416.00 and 11 resale CO's for \$1,320.00. Public Works collected single stream recycling of 81,000 pounds and 198 tons of trash for a cost of \$16,520.30. We collected metal, had cameras installed at Shining Star park and with the grant money we got we will be redoing the basketball courts. We also had the police department sprayed for bugs. The Mayor then reported he will find out what other towns are doing about July 4 at the next Mayor's meeting on the 19th and will let everyone know. Commissioner Gies added he wanted to thank Jim Beebe and Harry Smith for their help getting Little League ready to open.

Solicitor Stuart Platt thanked the Governing Body for the reappointment—there are a lot of exciting things coming up including the redevelopment project. Mayor Tovinsky stated that we have a group of really great professionals on our team.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Seeing no 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