

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
IN-PERSON MEETING HELD 7:00PM AT BOROUGH HALL**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Tovinsky called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the "Open Public Meetings Act" statement. He added that this is our first in-person meeting in quite a while so please go easy on him.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gies, Commissioner Wolk and Mayor Tovinsky present. Also present for the Borough were Solicitor Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Evans, Jr. from KEI Engineers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 22, 2021, Caucus meeting, July 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

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,559,163.47 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 ordinances by title one at a time:

Ord. 2021-11 Amending Chapter 28, Fire Department, in the Borough Code.

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-11. He asked participants to 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 Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, Ordinance 2021-11 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

Ord. 2021-12 Adding Article III, Mitigation Rates, to Chapter 28, Fire Department

Clerk Shannon explained this ordinance allows the Fire Department to bill insurance companies for supplies and manpower when they have to go to an emergency scene.

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-12. He asked participants to 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 Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, Ordinance 2021-12 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

Ord. 2021-13 Establishing the Salaries for Employees Covered by IBEW Contract

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on ordinance 2021-13. He asked participants to please state your name for the record. He explained we negotiated a new contract with the Public Works

employees and we brought them up in salary to be equal with other towns our size. They were very low paid originally and they are happy with the increases and do a great job for our town.

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 Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, Ordinance 2021-13 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

The Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2021-14 Bond Ordinance Authorizing Supplemental Funding for the Acquisition of Certain Real Property as Part of the Central Business Redevelopment Plan in and for the Borough of Mount Ephraim; Appropriating the Sum of \$50,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$50,000; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

Ord. 2021-15 Amending the 2021 Salary Ordinance for Non-union Employees and Officials of the Borough of Mount Ephraim

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, these ordinances were approved on first reading with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The Clerk announced that these ordinances will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the September 2, 2021, commission meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

21-62 Authorizing Refurbishing of a 2006 E-One Cyclone II Custom Rescue Pumper through the Sourcewell Cooperative

21-63 Appointing Jason Vilardo as Emergency Management Coordinator for a Three-Year Term

21-64 Awarding a Contract to Gran Turk for the Purchase of a New 14 Cubic-Yard, Tow-Behind, Self-Contained Leaf Machine

21-65 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Extend the Due Date for Third Quarter Taxes

21-66 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$3,069,000 of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021, of the Borough of Mount Ephraim; Making Certain Covenants to Maintain the Exemption of the Interest on Said Bonds from Federal Income Taxation; and Authorizing Such Further Actions and Making Such Determinations as May Be Necessary or Appropriate to Effectuate the Issuance and Sale of the Bonds

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 July Fire Department report. They had two structure fires, three MVA's, three EMS assists, one natural gas release, two cover assignments, 17 good-intent calls, 29 mutual aid and eight alarm systems. He then read the June court report stating that

funds turned over to the Borough were \$7,570.72. Commissioner Gies then read highlights from the Police Department report for July from Chief Conte. They answered 724 calls for service, and he read highlights of the calls. They also had 176 vehicle stops and issued 179 motor vehicle summonses. He reported they had 57 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. He added the Cops and Bobbers event was a great and was a fine job done by the Police Department. It was a great turnout and the kids really enjoyed themselves fishing.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for July 2021, reporting total receipts of \$132,104.35. We had five lien redemptions totaling \$21,384.55. He added that report was submitted by Kim Beebe, our new Tax Collector. Commissioner Wolk then reported that we lost a former commissioner, Peter Garcia, a few days ago. He was a long-time resident and a commissioner with myself and Commissioner Eggers. He lived on Linden with his wife and two children. He also worked for Florio. Our hearts and thoughts go out to his family. Mayor Tovinsky added he was very proud of his veteran status as well. We also lost Mrs. Beach so our hearts go out to the Beach family. Fire Company President Holmes added that we lost Tom Parks as well who was a long-time member of the fire company and served as president. Mayor Tovinsky added his services are this Saturday and Holmes reported they will be in Woodbury. Commissioner Wolk added that Cops and Bobbers was great as well as the July 4 parade. Thank you to all who worked on those events.

Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., reported on the following projects:

Idora Avenue--concrete curb and gutter work on complete; top soil restoration has started but sod won't be installed until the end of September; contractor hopes to schedule the base paving next week, weather permitting.

Linden Avenue—concrete curb and gutter work is also complete; top soil restoration has started but sod won't be installed until the end of September, when the weather is cooler. They also hope to schedule base paving next week.

Paving restoration on Northmont is complete and line strips will be installed when they are received. Our office will be scheduling the survey field work for the Lake Street project and hope to schedule construction this fall.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office report for July. They issued 27 permits for a total of \$3,728.00 and four resale CO's for \$480.00. Public Works collected single stream recycling of 77,780 pounds and 192 tons of trash for a cost of \$15,717.14. Trash costs will be going up—we are with a group of 21 towns who are out to bid for trash disposal. DPW collected metal, had an E-JIF inspection and scored a 95, set-up for the July 4 parade, had dead trees removed, handled Fire Alliance inspections and corrections. The July 4 parade was great and it was great to be back out there with our residents. Thanks to Police, Fire and Public Works for their work on this.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Stan Witkowski asked for an update on the Sacred Heart Church property. Mayor Tovinsky responded that we just had a meeting with the developer, Lidl and our professionals and it is moving forward as planned. We are now waiting for settlement to be scheduled as we completed the environmental work. Once we buy it, we can sell it to the developer.

Jerry Kappatos from Valley Road spoke about the paper street behind his home. We have been maintaining the paper street but we are getting wanderers back there who drop needles, someone was in our van last week and we have made numerous calls to the Police. We would like to know if a gate can be installed to keep wanderers off our property. We will continue to maintain it but

really would like a gate to keep people out of there. His wife added that when they get kicked out of the Budget, they stay in the area secluded by the trees. It is really scary because these people are wandering around and are on our property. The guy in our van was in his underwear. Mayor Tovinsky asked for their contact information and said he and Jim Beebe will be out to look at the area. Kappatos added that he does not understand why you can't make a right turn on red at the light. People make rights anyhow. Chief Conte replied it is set by the DOT. He would like to get the timing of the light fixed rather than allow turns on red. Kappatos added motorists fly to try to make the light. Mayor Tovinsky added we asked the County if we could install a speed bump but they turned us down. Kappatos would just like to see the No Turn on Red sign removed.

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 7:29pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk