

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the “Open Public Meetings Act” statement pursuant to Governor Murphy’s Executive Order regarding the Covid-19 public health emergency.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gies, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the Zoom meeting were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Greg Fusco and Clerk Terry Shannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the February 25, 2020, caucus meeting and the March 5, 2020, commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$195,588.31 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gies, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinances are being considered for adoption this evening:

- 2020-03 Amending and Supplementing Article II of Chapter 85 of the Borough Code to Expand the Permitted Issuance of Class A Liquor Licenses for Limited Breweries, Restricted Breweries (Brewpubs), Instructional Winemaking Facilities and Limited Distilleries
- 2020-04 Amending and Supplementing Article IV of Chapter 525 of the Borough Zoning Ordinance to Permit Limited Breweries, Restricted Breweries, Instructional Winemaking Facilities and Limited Distilleries in the C Commercial Zoning District

Mayor Wolk then opened the public hearing on these ordinances. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, Ord. 2020-03 and 2020-04 were finally adopted with the following poll vote: Tovinsky-yes; Gies-yes; Wolk-yes. Ordinance 2020-02 was adopted.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the following ordinance that is being introduced on first reading this evening and will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the May 7 commission meeting:

- 2020-05 Calendar Year 2020 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the first reading of ordinance 2020-05 was approved with the following poll vote: Tovinsky-yes; Gies-yes; Wolk-yes.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the resolutions that are to be approved by Consent Agenda. She read them as follows:

- 27-20 Authorizing a Contract with Rite Air Mechanical, LLC, for Maintenance of the Firehouse HVAC System
- 28-20 Prohibiting all Hotels, Motels, Guest Houses and/or Private Residences or Parts Thereof within the Borough of Mount Ephraim from Accepting New Transient Guests or Seasonal Tenants Until a Determination has Been Made by the Governor of New Jersey that the State of Emergency Declared Under EO No. 103 has Ended
- 29-20 Authorizing Transfers of 2019 Appropriation Reserves (1)
- 30-20 Authorizing Execution of a Contract with the Police Captain
- 31-20 Extending the Deadline for Dog Licensing to June 30
- 32-20 Approving Renewal of a Mercantile License for 2020

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Resolution consent agenda was approved.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies read highlights from the monthly reports submitted by the Police Department, Municipal Court and the Fire Department. He also reported that the Fire Department 32 calls for service including five alarm systems, three building fires, two gas leaks, four investigations, five MVA's, ten mutual aids. Firefighters also attended Read Across America at Mary Bray. They are waiting for delivery of a blue ultra-light to help combat the Covid virus. He also explained that they will be manning the fire station, temperatures will be taken and equipment will be disinfected after each call. They will provide food and beverages for those manning the station. These are volunteers and anything we can do for them is appreciated. He also said the way the Fire Department, Public Works and the Police Department are working together during this emergency is a great thing. He then read highlights from the Police Department monthly report for March reporting they had 498 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. The PD issued 81 motor vehicle summonses and served 11 warrants. They had 28 adult arrests for the month and he read highlights of the charges. There also five juvenile arrests for the month and he read highlights of those charges.

Commissioner Tovinsky read highlights from the reports submitted by the Construction Office issued three permits for \$478; three vacant property registrations totaling \$1500 and six resale CO's for \$1080. Public Works collected 64,000 pounds of recycling and 159 tons of trash for a cost of \$12,745 to Camden. They collected 10,500 pounds of metal for \$539, hung all the spring banners, closed the parks and ballfields due to the virus. They are doing a great job getting trash done and staying away from each other. If anyone gets the virus, they will have to quarantine for 14 days and we will have to put dumpsters at borough hall so residents can drop-off their trash. Great Easter parade by the firemen—he heard really good stuff from the residents. Thank to the Police Department, the Fire Department and Public Works for a heck of a job.

Borough Engineer Greg Fusco thanked the Governing Body for the appointment and added the staff at KEI Engineers is grateful and won't let you down. He then reported that he met with Pioneer Pipe to discuss their status on the James Street project and the Bell Road project. Regarding James, they feel they will still be out there for a couple of weeks—they were supposed to be done by mid-April but they have six more laterals and some concrete work to be completed. Once that work is done, he will contact Barrett to let them know they can get started. Regarding Bell Road, Pioneer asked if we have a signed contract with them yet. He spoke with the Clerk and she is checking into that. The Camden County Open Space application period was extended to May 1 and he will work with the

Clerk as to what projects you want to apply for. The NJDOT 2021 applications are due in June so we can discuss what streets you want to submit. Regarding the 2020 funding for Linden and Adams Avenues, we are prepared to begin the field work to get ready for bids this summer. Beginning next month, I will submit a written report for each meeting.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for March 2020, reporting total receipts of \$186,176.10 and lien redemptions of \$16,775.81. He also read the Tax Collector's annual report for 2020 reporting total current fund receipts of \$14,510.729.80. He thanked Police, Fire and Public Works for the Easter parade through town. Thanks to the citizens of this Borough for following the advice to stop the spread of this horrible disease. For a long time we had zero cases but now we do. We are also testing more so cases will go up but Camden County is doing well. The task force is looking for ways to re-open the country a little at a time. Thanks to my fellow commissioners for doing a good job with all of this. Thank you to all for wearing your masks.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Clerk Shannon reported that the Primary Election has been moved to July 7 and voter registration deadline has been moved to June 16. Deadline to change party affiliation is May 13. The primary may be a vote-by-mail election but we are waiting for a final decision on this. In the Tax Office, we had an employee who has been out of work on disability since February 14 who has just returned to work on a limited basis. She expressed a huge thank you to Tara Weiss and Kim Beebe for their tremendous help while she was out of work. The commissioners thanked them and said good job.

Chief Conte reported Ales on the Rails is cancelled. He thanked Jay Vilardo for his help during this emergency. He has been a huge help getting them PPE.

Chief Gilmore said they are limiting the number of guys at the firehouse at one time. If we have a large incident, everyone will show up and we will do our best to keep everybody safe. We have a lot of guys who are working from home and are helping to man the firehouse.

Mayor Wolk asked if the Financial Disclosure deadline has been extended and Clerk Shannon said not to her knowledge. Solicitor Riso said he thinks it has been and will confirm. Mayor Wolk then asked Commissioner Gies if there is any update on the Census and Gies said we are trying to get the word out on Facebook. We were going to have a table at Ales on the Rails but now that is cancelled. He added we have good information on the new website that is fantastic. We are hearing the Census will be extended. Mayor Wolk then asked if visitors are allowed at the West Center and Chief Conte said no, they have it locked down tight to keep the virus out.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the public portion was closed.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk