

**APRIL 4, 2019, COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM
BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

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.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Erika Vardaxis and Clerk Terry Shannon.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Commissioner Gilmore, along with Chief Conte, presented a plaque to Sgt. Michael Beach for his retirement from the Mount Ephraim Police Department. Michael’s friends and family were in attendance and gave him a big round of applause. They then all left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the March 7, 2019, commission meeting were distributed and asked for any corrections. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$776,582.33 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gilmore, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinances are on for public hearing and adoption this evening and the Clerk read them as follows:

- 2019-01 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Improvements in and for the Borough of Mount Ephraim; Appropriating the Sum of \$625,000 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 \$625,000 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing
- 2019-02 Calendar Year 2019 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A: 4-45.14)
- 2019-03 Amending Chapter 410, Vehicles and Traffic in the Borough Code (Station Avenue movement)
- 2019-04 Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Ephraim, Camden County, New Jersey, Approving and Authorizing the Entering into and Execution and Delivery of

Amendments to an Existing Original Loan Agreement with the Camden County Improvement Authority in Connection with the Authority's Borough Guaranteed Loan Revenue Refunding Bonds (Mt. Ephraim Fire Station Project), Series 2019

Commissioner Tovinsky said there was confusion regarding the one way on Station Avenue and Explained it is just for the one block from Gaskill Avenue to Kings Highway.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the second reading of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on these ordinances and asked for any questions or comments on these ordinances. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing on these ordinances was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, Ordinance 2019-01, 2019-02, 2019-03 and 2019-04 were adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes.

Commissioner Gilmore explained that ordinance 2019-04 is a refinance of the loan for the firehouse and over the life of the loan we will save over \$200,000.

The ordinances were adopted.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk read the following ordinance by title:

Ord. 2019-05 Amending Chapter 218 of the Borough Code Entitled "Hotels and Motels"

Mayor Wolk then said this ordinance will be posted for 30 days and will be considered for adoption after a public hearing at the May 2 commission meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of the ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-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:

- 24-19 Authorizing the Signing of an Addendum to the Shared Services Agreement with Bellmawr for Fleet Maintenance Services
- 25-19 Authorizing Advertisement for RFQ's for Selection of Professionals under a Fair and Open Process
- 26-19 Certification of Compliance with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions" under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 27-19 Introduction of the 2019 Municipal Budget

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

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department report from March, 2019, reporting they had 32 total incidents and he read highlights of the incidents. They conducted four drills for a total of 186 volunteer man hours. He then read highlights of the Mount Ephraim Police Department report for March 2019. They had 686 calls and assigned 803 case numbers. He read highlights of the calls and reported they had 54 arrests, served 22 out-of-town warrants and issued 295 motor vehicle summonses. He read highlights of the arrests. Commissioner Gilmore wished Michael Beach well in his retirement.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for February, 2019, the Construction office issued 25 permits for a total of \$5,517 and six re-sale CO's for a total of \$720; and for March, they issued 11 permits for a total of \$1,899, collected \$2,500 for three vacant property registrations and issued seven CO's for a total of \$840. In Public Works, single stream recycling was 63,400 pounds and trash tons were 174 for a disposal cost of \$13,645. They handled two sewer calls and he added that New Jersey American Water expects to meet with the Utilities Board in May and we hope to have settlement for June 1. Public Works collected 8100 pounds of metal, hung the spring banners, and handled potholes. He added his congratulations to Michael Beach—he has known him all his life as their families were close friends.

Engineer Erika Vardaxis from Federici and Akin reported on the following items:

- Bell Road Discretionary Aid project is under design and is expected to be out for bid early summer;
- the James Street NJDOT Local Aid project will also be out for bid this summer with construction planned for early fall;
- we received notice this week that we received DOT funding for Idora and Charles Streets and we will be working on that project next year.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for March 2019, reporting total receipts of \$256,114.61 and \$33,484.67 in lien redemptions. He also read the 2018 annual report from the Tax Collector reporting total receipts of \$13,750,042.73. Mayor Wolk then read the prepared Budget Message and reported that for 2019 we again have no municipal tax increase, the same as 2018 and 2017. The public hearing on the budget will be at the May 2 meeting. We received another \$225,000 from the State for Idora and Charles which brings us well over two million dollars in state aid in the last four years. That is unprecedented for this borough and great work on the part of our professionals and our financial advisor. Little League day is April 13, the Easter Egg Hunt is the 20th at 10am and Ales on the Rails will be on the 27th from 2pm-7pm. Thanks to all of our volunteers to make all of these things happen. The Miss Mount Ephraim contest will be May 22 at MEPRI Hall.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Dan Blachford, interim superintendent of schools spoke and said the school district has a great relationship with the town which is not always the case. We are working closely with the Police Department and are in compliance with all state regulations regarding safety. They have drills

and table top drills. He spoke in detail about some of the drills. We rely on the police a lot and this is an extraordinary department. We are working to upgrade our security cameras to newer technology. The new software allows them to get images out to all emergency responders. We have some money in the budget for this and the PTO is fundraising to raise the rest of the funds. On January 22, a pipe on the roof burst and rain was coming into the school. Someone smelled oil so the police came and evacuated the school to the MEPRI building so the smell could be investigated. Everything turned out to be fine and they handled the situation very well and are a great department.

Michael Williams, safety coordinator, thanked the governing body for allowing him to continue as safety coordinator and he thanked all the departments for their cooperation. On March 26, we attended the safety kickoff breakfast and he is pleased to present the safety award in the amount of \$1500 to Mt. Ephraim. Also, he and Jim Beebe will be going to the school tomorrow to talk about the recycling program and educate the kids.

Mike Rossano from Green Avenue asked if the pedestrian crosswalks on Kings Highway can be better marked. Chief Conte said it is a county road so we will work with the engineer and the county on that. We had the type that stand in the street but they always get hit by cars. We will look into alternatives. Rossano said by Cabana's and the post office really need them. Chief Gilmore of the fire department added there should be signage on the side street at James as that is their primary access point onto Kings Highway.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed and the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk