

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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 Gies, Commissioner Tovinsky and Mayor Wolk present. Also on the dais were Solicitor Eric Riso, Engineer Erika Vardaxis and Clerk Terry Shannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the July 8, 2019, 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 \$727,029.01 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.

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:

- 53-19 Renewing the Inactive Liquor License Held by Evergreen Investment Group, LLC
- 54-19 Authorizing Refund of a Zoning Application Fee
- 55-19 Authorizing Tax Collector to Extend the Due Date for 3rd Quarter Taxes
- 56-19 Authorizing Approval of Mercantile Licenses for 2019

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 Mount Ephraim Police Department report for July 2019, reporting they had 664 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They had 312 car stops and issued 254 motor vehicle summonses. They served 18 warrants. He also reported they had 54 adult arrests and he read highlights of the arrests. Commissioner Gies then read highlights of the July report from the Fire Department reporting they had two drills, one dwelling fire, three EMS assists, six MVA's, two highway hazards, six public assists and ten mutual aids. One of the mutual aid calls was an assist to Voorhees on July 21 when it was very hot and the air conditioning was down in a senior center and they helped relocate the residents. Also the Rotary presented a \$1000 check to the fire department. Mayor Wolk asked for a round of applause as there was one Rotarian (Andy Gilmore) in the audience.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for July, 2019, the Construction office issued 21 permits for a total of \$3,933 and one vacant property registrations for \$625. They had seven resale CO's and collected \$840. The gazebo at Shining Star was vandalized for the third time. Brian from Advantage Roofing repaired the roof today at his own cost. We will be looking for a new company to put cameras at the park. For Public Works, single stream was 63,400 pounds and trash tonnage was 181 tons at a cost of \$14,171. They removed graffiti from the playground equipment at Norcross and Shining Star Parks—we may have a lead on the offender. They repaired potholes and responded to zero sewer calls since we sold the system to NJAW. They picked up 7660 pounds of metal for \$459 and put up the right-hand-turn signs on Station Avenue. PSE&G repaired lights at Shining Star Park and a new pole has been ordered for a speed sign on Valley Road. Commissioner Tovinsky then reported a resident reported that the light poles at the townhouses the paint is chipping off so he will have Jim Beebe check them out.

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

- DOT projects James Street and Bell Road Storm sewer are still scheduled for this fall but we are waiting on NJAW regarding replacement of the sewer lines. Once we hear from them, we will advise of the scheduling.
- Applications for 2020 DOT Municipal Aid were submitted in July for Linden and Adams as priority one and Cleveland Avenue as priority two.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for July 2019, reporting total receipts of \$168,032.21 and \$31,530.78 in lien redemptions. He asked Chief Conte to talk about National Night Out and he reported it will be August 6, 6pm-8pm, at Audubon Lake and will be "Cops and Bobbers" this year. Chief Conte added that Celebrations Committee, Cabana, Rotary and Wawa are all helping to sponsor and provided donations. Also Bass Pro Shop donated prizes. No license is required for the day. Mayor Wolk then reported that our next caucus meeting will be August 27 at 3pm and the commission meeting will be September 5 at 7pm. That will be after the Labor Day holiday and the kids go back to school on September 4. Chief Conte added that this year, Kershaw School will start at 8am and Mary Bray at 8:15. Kershaw will end at 2:30 and Mary Bray at 2:45. Also fifth grade moved to Mary Bray.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Rich Welsh from Baird Avenue reported he saw kids in Shining Star Park at 9:30 at night. He asked about the curfew hours at the park and if we can have the park patrolled? Chief Conte responded that they clear the kids out at curfew but we don't want to be overbearing on the kids because if they are in the park, they know where they are. If they flush them out of the park, they will be in the neighborhoods. Welsh added that it is hard to see them in the gazebo because it is dark and Chief Conte said we will be installing lights and cameras. Commissioner Tovinsky added he would rather have them at Norcross because it is open and we can see them. It would be fine if they hang out as long as they are not destructive.

Mike Rossano from Green Avenue asked if there has been any discussion about making the chicken pilot program a permanent ordinance and can we consider raising the number of chickens to six? There are more breeds that people would like to try but with a limit of four, they are locked-in. Commissioner Tovinsky said it has not been discussed yet but we will discuss at caucus.

Commissioner Tovinsky asked how the food pantry was going and Mike responded it is going well. Rossano added they removed the food when it was 110 degrees but overall it is going very well.

Chief Conte added that the County will spray the park for mosquitos for National Night Out.

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

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk