

**JULY 5, 2018, 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 and led all present in the “Pledge of Allegiance”. He then announced that this meeting has been advertised and posted in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act”.

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.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Wolk presented 7th grader Julianna Rossano with a proclamation thanking her for raising money and purchasing a microchip scanner for the Mount Ephraim Police Department so they can scan lost pets to see if they have a chip so the necessary information can be obtained to safely return the pet to their owners.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the May 29, 2018, caucus and the June 7, 2018, commission meetings 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 \$739,763.35 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.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinances are on for second reading and public hearing this evening:

- 05-18 Establishing the 2018 Salaries for Police Department Employees Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements
- 06-18 Establishing the 2018 Salaries for Non-union Employees and Officers of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 07-18 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment for the Borough of Mount Ephraim, Appropriating the Sum of \$652,000 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 \$642,000 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the second reading was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk then opened the public hearing on these ordinances.

Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public hearing was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, Ord. 05-18, 06-18 and 07-18 were adopted with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Ordinances were adopted.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Mayor Wolk announced the following ordinance is being introduced on first reading this evening:

- 08-18 Authorizing the Sale of the Borough’s Municipally Owned Wastewater Collection System

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of these ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced that these ordinances will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the August 2 commission meeting. He added this is the sale of the sewer system to New Jersey American Company. We received bids last month and Commissioner Tovinsky said we received one bid from New Jersey American in the amount of \$1.4 million dollars. Mayor Wolk then read the published public statement explaining the sale. He explained that we thoroughly reviewed the proposal submitted and decided to proceed with the sale. He added that the voters will make the final decision by a referendum question on the November general election ballot. There will be multiple public meetings before the election so the public can ask any questions. Kevin Watsey from New Jersey American spoke and said they are thrilled for the opportunity to buy the system—they have had the water system for the past decade. They will attend every meeting going forward and are prepared to answer any and all questions from the residents.

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:

- 59-18 Authorizing Renewal of Liquor License for 2018-2019 Term
- 60-18 Authorizing Increase in Petty Cash Fund for Tax Office
- 61-18 Appropriating Items of Revenue and Expense for Grants Received
- 62-18 Certification by the Governing Body of the Annual Report of Audit
- 63-18 Awarding a Contract to Bogey’s Trucking and Paving Inc. for Resurfacing of Northmont Avenue Project
- 64-18 Authorizing Approval of Mercantile License for 2018
- 65-18 Authorizing the Borough Solicitor to Take Action Regarding Mt. Ephraim Dodge

On a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, 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 Police Department report for June 2018. The total calls were 806 and they issued 745 case numbers. He read highlights of the calls

and reported they had 49 adult arrests and one juvenile. He read highlights of the arrest offenses. One of them involved the PNC Bank robbery and they were apprehended and it was a great job by the Police Department. They served 19 out-of-town warrants. He also read highlights of the training completed by the police department. They issued 429 motor vehicle summonses. He then read highlights from the Mt. Ephraim Fire Department report for June reporting they responded to 32 incidents and had 280 total volunteer man hours. Commissioner Gilmore then reported he received the Court report and although you don't look to the Police Department to be a money making operation, so far for the first five months of this year, we have received \$73,463 in fines and penalties. He added that the July 4 parade was great and the Celebrations Committee did a wonderful job. He is proud to live in this town.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for June the Construction Office issued 21 permits for a total of \$3,633.00. We had two vacant property registrations for a total of \$633.35 and 12 resale certificates for a total of \$1440.00. Public Works collected 78,740 pounds of single stream recycling and 182 tons of trash for a disposal cost of \$12,558.00. He reported that the 2nd Ave pump station went down Tuesday night but it was only a fuse. DPW picked up metal, finished mulch at Norcross Park and had various facilities inspected. Commissioner Tovinsky then added congratulations to the Mt. Ephraim Little League Senior Division Team who won the District 14 championship and their first ever Section 4 championship. They are headed to the state tournament. He thanked everyone for a great July 4 parade.

Engineer Erika Vardaxis from Federici and Akin reported the construction of Northmont Avenue should start in about four weeks. Regarding James Street, our next DOT project, we are working with the utility companies to get any utilities upgraded before we do the street. Bell Road, we received discretionary funds for the drainage and we are working with the County to start the design.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for June, 2018, reporting total receipts of \$125,452.02 and \$4095.28 in lien redemptions. We will be here again July 24 for the workshop and August 2 for the commission meeting. He thanked everyone who participated in the July 4 parade—it was a great day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Rick March from George Street asked are they always at the Budget Inn? Chief Conte responded he can go on the NJ State Police website and view the registrants that are listed in Mt. Ephraim. March then asked what will be done with the \$1.4 million from NJ American if we sell the sewer system? Solicitor Riso explained the funds have to be used to pay down municipal debt. That is a requirement by state statute.

Commissioner Tovinsky told Mr. March that he is talking with the County about putting a drain in behind the fields to solve the problems he has reported to us before.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Gilmore, second by Mayor Wolk, the public portion was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon
Municipal Clerk