

**MONDAY, JULY 8, 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 7:02pm 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 June 6, 2019, commission meeting and the May 28, 2019, caucus 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 \$1,627,155.39 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.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Mayor Wolk asked Clerk Shannon to read the ordinances by title which she read as follows:

- 2019-06 Establishing the 2019 Salaries of Certain Employees of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements
- 2019-07 Establishing the 2019 Salaries of Certain Employees and Officials of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 2019-08 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment in the Borough of Mount Ephraim; Appropriating the Sum of \$300,000 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 \$285,000 making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing
- 2019-09 Amending Chapter 49 of the Borough Code Entitled "Police Department"

Mayor Wolk opened the public hearing on these ordinances and asked that you state your name for the record. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the public hearing on the ordinances was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gies, Ordinances 2019-06, 2019-07, 2019-08 and 2019-09 as read were adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. The ordinances were successfully adopted.

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:

- 46-19 Cancellling a Stale Check Drawn on the Court Bail Account
- 47-19 Amending the Standard Operating Procedures of the Mount Ephraim Police Department to Add a Pregnancy Policy
- 48-19 Authorizing the Engineer to Advertise for Bids for the Bell Road Drainage Project
- 49-19 Authorizing the Engineer to Advertise for Bids for the James Street Improvement Project

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 June 2019, reporting they had 770 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. He also reported they had 49 adult arrests and he also read highlights of the arrests. They issued 321 motor vehicle summonses and served 23 out-of-town warrants. They also had six juvenile arrests. Commissioner Gies then read highlights of the June report from the Fire Department reporting they responded to 29 total incidents including three drills, three motor vehicle accidents, five investigations, three rescues, two EMS assists, four alarm systems and eleven mutual aids resulting from the flooding on June 19 & 20. They manned the station for two days and rescued people using their boat. Everyone did a nice job—there is nothing we can do about weather.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for June, 2019, the Construction office issued xispermits for a total of \$2,722 and zero vacant property registrations. They had nine resale CO's and collected \$1,080. There were no vacant property registrations. He then reported that for Public Works, single stream recycling was 82,500 pounds and trash tonnage was 181 tons for a cost of \$14,146 to the Camden plant. DPW responded to six sewer calls but we made settlement with NJAW so the sewer will not be ours anymore to fix. We will just be in charge of storm sewer drains. We had a pipe at the ball fields that caused a bid sink hole and Pioneer Pipe made the repairs. The clubhouse at the girls' softball field was remodeled by AllRisk as a result of raccoon damage.

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

- James Street NJDOT Local Aid project will be going out to bid soon and construction should take place this fall;
- DOT Discretionary Aid project Bell Road drainage is also going out to bid with construction taking place this fall;
- we are working with NJAW to get the sewer replaced under both of these streets so there will be a lot of construction going on;
- we received DOT Local Aid for 2019 for Idora and Charles so that project will be designed and construction next year;
- DOT applications for 2020 will be submitted by July 19.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for June 2019, reporting total receipts of \$204,774.17 and \$16,202.50 in lien redemptions. He thanked everyone who participated in the July 4 parade. Thanks to all the volunteers. Mayor Wolk added that our next workshop will be

July 23 at 3pm and the next commission meeting will be August 1 at 7pm. We should all be receiving our notification from NJAW about the sewer purchase.

The Clerk reported that the engineer reminded us that we need to apply for the 2020 DOT Municipal Aid so she would like to add two resolutions for approval as follows:

- 50-19 Authorizing Submission of a DOT Municipal Aid Application for Linden & Adams Avenues
- 51-19 Authorizing Submission of a DOT Municipal Aid Application for Cleveland Avenue

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Kyle Nash from Rudderow Avenue asked about NJAW and how will they be responsible to the voters. What will happen if they raise the rates more than agreed to? Solicitor Riso replied that will not happen—they agreed to the increases as per the agreement. Nash then asked about the 1.4 million—did we get that on the 2nd and what happens with that money? Commissioner Tovinsky replied that we will apply \$100,000 per year for 14 years towards our debt. Nash also asked about the four million they are supposed to invest in the first four years and Tovinsky responded that they will repair or replace both pump stations. They will also replace whatever pipes they deem are the worst in the first four years.

Mike Gaglione from Lowell Avenue said that during the heavy rain on June 20th, their properties were surrounded with water. They saw three Public Works vehicles drive through the water yet no one notified us about the rising water. No one even came by afterwards. During Sandy, Emergency Management was in contact with them. Why wasn't anyone in contact with them this time? Commissioner Tovinsky agreed that we need to do something about that. We have never had rain like that before and we were not prepared for this. Mrs. Gaglione added that they have a camera that shows the borough vehicles going by and we were not notified. All it would have taken was a phone call. Several of us had cars that were under water including our handicapped van. Commissioner Tovinsky reiterated that they were more concerned about the pump stations and he never told them to call the residents. We will be more prepared in the future.

Jim McMonagle from Lowell asked wouldn't it be Public Safety's role to notify us in advance of the storm? Chief Gilmore of the Fire Department said we are notified in advance of coming big storms but this storm was unexpected. No one expected this much rain. It was not just Mt. Ephraim—the whole area was flooded. Commissioner Tovinsky again stated we were unprepared and we will get together and come up with a plan to be better prepared in the future.

Kim Dempshire from 34 Lumber Land said there is a trench behind the railroad tracks that is pretty deep and long and is a hazard. Commissioner Tovinsky said he will have DPW take a look at it. She then asked if any tickets have been issued to the bike kids and Chief Conte responded that we issued over 30 tickets a couple of weeks ago and the parents were fined \$250. We hope it quiets down. Rich Welsh from Baird Avenue added the bike kids are hanging near the park but they seem to move out of the way when somebody is coming.

Mayor Wolk added that OEM takes over when the governor declares an emergency. We will sit down with OEM and the other department heads and come up with a plan and will then meet with the residents. He attended a regional meeting last week and there were some devastating things that happened with flooding throughout the area. He understands the concerns—we will contact you to come to a meeting to discuss.

John Kuchmek asked if we can live stream these meetings to make them more accessible. You could even use YouTube. If you live stream, people could actually make comments during the meeting. He would be willing to help. Mayor Wolk said we will take a look at that. Solicitor Riso added that anyone has the right to video tape these meetings.

Former Commissioner Gilmore added that the July 4 parade was great and he asked for a round of applause for the coordinator, Theresa, who was present. He then added that he thinks there is a Channel 29 camera on the billboard that we are not be paying paid for. Mayor Wolk said thank you and we will look into it. He then expressed concern for those who had flooding issues and said it just takes common sense to notify them when water is rising.

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 7:42pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk