

**JUNE 6, 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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

The Governing Body presented commendations to Chief Brian Conte, Officer Danielle Frank and EMT's Tara Feeley and Steven Paoline for their heroic efforts in saving a member of the Sparrow Program who was choking on food and could not be revived. Chief Conte's efforts, along with support from the three others, resulted in saving the life of the Sparrow member.

**SWEARING-IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICER**

Stephen May was sworn into office as a Police Officer by Mayor Wolk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the May 2, 2019, commission meeting and the May 14, 2019, Reorganization 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 \$1,338,502.79 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 INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING**

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"

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky second by Commissioner Gies, the ordinances as read were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes; Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced that a public hearing will be held on these ordinances at the July 8 commission meeting.

**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:

- 35-19 Appointing Special Environmental Counsel
- 36-19 Establishing a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 37-19 Authorizing a Chapter 159 Budget Amendment for a Grant Received
- 38-19 Authorizing Refund of Erroneous Sewer Payments
- 39-19 Cancelling State Checks Drawn on the Municipal Court Account
- 40-19 Appointing Stephen May as a Patrolman to the Police Department
- 41-19 Authorizing a Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney/Client Privileged Matter

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 May 2019, reporting they had 940 calls for service. He read highlights of the calls and reported they had 29 adult arrests and he also read highlights of the arrests. They issued 280 motor vehicle summonses and served 20 out-of-town warrants. Commissioner Gies then read highlights of the May report from the Fire Department reporting they responded to 12 motor vehicle accidents, two investigations, nine mutual aid, two public service assignments, seven alarm systems, three dwellings. They had 36 total calls, four drills and attended Memorial Day services.

Commissioner Tovinsky reported that for May, 2019, the Construction office issued 20 permits for a total of \$2,722 and zero vacant property registrations. They had 14 resale CO's and collected \$1,680. He then reported that for Public Works, single stream recycling was 87,580 pounds and trash tonnage was 222 tons for a cost of \$17,389 to the Camden plant. DPW filled potholes, responded to five sewer calls and collected 12,980 pounds of metal. They also had new toilets installed at Dougherty Senior Rec Center with CDBG funds. Jim Beebe has been meeting with New Jersey American Water in preparation for the transition. He added that a great job was done by all on Memorial Day. The July 4 parade is coming next month.

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

- James Street NJDOT Local Aid project will also be repaved in the fall and NJAW will be replacing the sewer main this summer;
- DOT Discretionary Aid project Bell Road drainage is also scheduled to be done this fall and NJAW is replacing the sewer on that road as well this summer;
- met with Conrail and DOT regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossing project and they will be starting on Tuesday, June 18 and will be done by Friday. Commissioner Tovinsky added detour signs will be

posted and asked that everyone be patient during construction. Chief Conte reported it will be a full closure and he met with the schools to make them aware.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for May 2019, reporting total receipts of \$1,174,520.19 and \$38,931.67 in lien redemptions. He thanked everyone who participated in the Memorial Day services. On July 4 we are having the parade, baby parade and bike parade and Chief Conte provided the details. Mayor Wolk added that our commission meeting will be Monday, July 8 and the workshop is June 25 at 3:00pm.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Former Commissioner Andrew Gilmore from Reading Avenue thanked the Engineer for working to get the railroad crossing fixed. We fought for years to get it done and they finally did it. He asked about the saw cuts to make sure they are going to meet our pavement and Vardaxis confirmed they will be doing so.

Kim Dempshire from Lumber Lane said New Jersey American Water changed the meters to their water and now they have low water pressure. Engineer Vardaxis said she will provide her with NJAW contact information after the meeting.

Doug Morgan from Bell Road asked what the new governing body has planned to improve the town over the next years. Commissioner Tovinsky responded that we keep applying for grants to improve our streets. We also apply for grants for the parks and Little League. We don't have much open space left to put in new parks. It is tough to get new businesses in town because of the parking situation. Our next goal is to get Sacred Heart sold. If anyone has any ideas, please come to our meetings and tell us. Morgan added that he has read reports that our school performance has declined. Commissioner Gies told him to go to a Board of Education meeting to discuss that. Tovinsky added that we will have a new superintendent and hopefully that will help.

Kim Dempshire added that there is a problem with kids on bikes in traffic throughout town. Chief Conte responded they will be doing an aggressive campaign to cite the kids on bikes who are causing a problem in traffic. It is ultimately a parenting problem. Dempshire said they ride down the middle and it is very scary. Chief Conte said they are aware and are going to address it. Hopefully if the parents have to pay the tickets, they will help to solve the problem.

Mayor Wolk added that regarding Morgan's question, it took us a while to get rid of the Fantasy Showbar and we hope Sacred Heart gets sold to improve on economic development. We know these are quality of life issues. We have been addressing high grass and other issues in town. Morgan said he just wanted information on the process to get things changed. Commissioner Gies said residents should attend the caucus meeting so they can see how things get done and how much work goes into it. Mayor Wolk added that caucus is the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm.

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 to Closed Session 7:40pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk