

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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 7:03pm 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 Doug Akin and Clerk Terry Shannon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

Mayor Wolk announced that the minutes from the October 3, 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 \$887,377.06 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 the Clerk to read the ordinance on for public hearing and adoption which she read as follows:

- 2019-10 Amending Chapter 241 of the Borough Code Entitled “Licensing” and Chapter 121 Entitled “Certificate of Continued Occupancy” (this establishes a CO program for commercial properties); and
- 2019-11 Amending Chapter 94 of the Borough Code Entitled “Animals” (this makes the backyard chicken program permanent)

Mayor Wolk then opened the public hearing and asked for comments. Seeing none, on a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the public hearing was closed. On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, Ordinance 2019-10 and 2019-11 were adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Tovinsky-yes, Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk added that the first year pilot program was a success and there were no problems so he changed his position and decided to vote yes for the program.

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING**

Mayor Wolk announced that the following ordinance will be introduced tonight on first reading and will then be posted and the public hearing will be held during the December 5 commission meeting. He asked the Clerk to read the ordinance which she read as follows:

- 2019-12 Ordinance Amending Chapter 165, Entitled “Fees”, and Chapter 183 Entitled “Fire Prevention” in the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim

On a motion by Commissioner Tovinsky, second by Commissioner Gies, the first reading of the ordinances was 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:

- 76-19 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Barrington Regional Fire Alliance
- 77-19 Authorizing Participation with the Camden County Deer Carcass Removal Contract
- 78-19 Authorizing Submission of an Application for Drug Alliance Funding
- 79-19 Authorizing Travel Advances for the NJSLOM Convention
- 80-19 Approving 2019 Budget Transfers
- 81-19 Authorizing Purchase of a Police Vehicle and Equipment under State Contract
- 82-19 Releasing the Performance Bond Posted for the Northmont Avenue Project
- 83-19 Authorizing Participation with the Camden County Contract for Sodium Chloride
- 84-19 Appointing a Designated Employer Representative for Drug Testing CDL Drivers
- 85-19 Authorizing Execution of a Shared Service Agreement with Camden County Relative to Project Save
- 86-19 Authorizing the Borough of Mount Ephraim through the Police Department to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 Program to Enable the Police Department to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment

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.

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD**

Mayor Wolk announced that the following individuals are being appointed to the Planning Board:

Carmine Rampolla, 105 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as a Class IV Alternate member  
Nicholas Smarrito, 120 Harding Avenue, as a Class IV Alternate member

### **REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Gies: Police Department report for October 2019—they answered 607 calls including 27 alarms, 57 EMS calls, five assaults, six overdose, nine harassments, one sex offender registration, 11 motor vehicle crashes, 45 suspicious persons or vehicles, eight shopliftings, eight thefts, 20 vacation and business checks, 11 wellbeing checks and seven 9-1-1 verifications. Officers made 154 car stops and issued 170 motor vehicle summonses. They served 25 warrants and had 46 adult arrests for the month. He read highlights of the arrest charges. They also had two juvenile arrests. The Police Department is participating in No-Shave November and growing beards to support cancer research. You can donate on their webpage. For the Fire Department they had a total of 46 incidents including 13 alarm systems, 15 mutual aid, five assists to PD and EMS, four public service events, six investigations, two gas leaks and one motor vehicle accident. Their hoagie sale will be this Saturday starting at 8am until they sell out. Commissioner Gies commented that the Trunk or Treat event was great and every organization in town participated. The weather held off and everyone had a nice time.

Commissioner Tovinsky: Construction office report for October, 2019—they issued 25 permits for a total of \$3,816, three vacant property registrations for \$1,375 and six resale CO's for a total of \$720. For Public Works—single stream recycling was 77,360 pounds and trash tonnage was 169 tons for a cost of \$13,189. We responded to zero sewer calls. They collected 8740 pounds of metal for \$305.09 in revenue. There was a dead tree and 8<sup>th</sup> and Center Avenues and had PSE&G helped remove because it had wires in it. The company who removed the tree did a good job as it was a risky job. We had Dave Carey working in Bellmawr doing concrete work through our shared service. We also had the walking path at Shining Star Park repaved through the shared service with Bellmawr. We also poured concrete pads at Shining Star for the new benches and trash cans. Leaf season started October 28 and will continue until mid-December. Finally, one of our DPW employees, Jason Green and his family were in a bad accident on their way to North Carolina last week. One of their children was injured. Please say a prayer for them.

Engineer Doug Akin from Federici and Akin reported on the following items:

- NJDOT James Street project—our office is waiting on final approval from DOT. Once received, we will go out to bid.
- Discretionary Aid Bell Road drainage project has been approved by DOT and we are waiting for County approval. Once approved, we will schedule to go out for bids.
- NJDOT project Idora and Charles will be designed this winter. We hope to get it approved so we can go out to bid in the spring of 2020.

Mayor Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for October, 2019, reporting total receipts of \$1,078,082.93 and \$10,071.50 in lien redemptions. This report will be received and spread on the minutes. Our tax sale is scheduled for December 3 at 10am. There are 147 properties in the tax sale at this time. The list was posted in the Gloucester City News. He echoed Commissioner Gies's comments about the Trunk or Treat event. Also Halloween beat the rain so glad we did not change the date. We are working on our 2020 budget. We will be here again on November 26 at 3pm and December 5 at 7pm for the commission meeting. Also November 11 is Veterans Day. He asked former Commissioner Andy Gilmore, who was in the audience, about the service and he responded it will be at 11am that day.

Commissioner Tovinsky added that we have a town resident who is in the National Bass Master's Classic. Keith Cowan is down in South Carolina right now in the tournament so we wish him luck!

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record. George White from 402 Bell Road asked about the Bell Road project and if anyone has come out to look at that area. He said that the sidewalk in front of his house and his neighbor's and across the street have sunk. His retaining wall is falling. He wants the engineer to come out to look at the area to make sure it is included in the project. He watches the sink areas after every rain. Mayor Wolk asked Doug Akin if they can go out and take a look at it and he said they will. Commissioner Tovinsky added he will meet with our regular engineer, Erika, when she returns from vacation so they can take a look at the situation.

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 at 7:26pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk