

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Tovinsky called the virtual meeting to order at 7:04pm with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. The Clerk read the “Open Public Meetings Act” statement as it relates to virtual meetings and the public health emergency. Mayor Tovinsky welcomed all to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gies, Commissioner Wolk and Mayor Tovinsky present. Also on the Zoom meeting for the Borough were Clerk Shannon, Solicitor Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., from KEI Engineers. Also participating were various department heads.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 28, 2021, Caucus meeting, and January 6, 2022, Commission meeting minutes were submitted for review and approval. On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,546,064.40 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Gies second by Commissioner Wolk, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Clerk Shannon read the following ordinance by title:

Ord. 2022-01 Bond Ordinance Authorizing Phase II of the Reconstruction of Lake Street in and for the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, NJ; Appropriating the Sum of \$310,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, NJ, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$76,000, Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, first reading of ordinance 2022-01 was approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. Mayor Tovinsky announced that this ordinance will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the March 3, 2022, commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

The Clerk read the following Resolutions by title for approval by Consent Agenda:

- 22-29 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Runnemedede for Brine
- 22-30 Authorizing Vehicles No Longer Needed for Borough Operations to be Sold at Public Auction
- 22-31 Authorizing Transfer of 2021 Appropriation Reserves
- 22-32 Authorizing a Right-of-Access Agreement with Phillips 66 Company
- 22-33 Authorizing Approval of 2022 Mercantile Licenses
- 22-34 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 22-35 Authorizing Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with Camden County Relative to the Kings Highway Reconstruction Project
- 22-36 Authorizing a Temporary Capital Budget for 2022

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

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies announced that Officer Severance's father-in-law passed away this week and Sgt. Errigo's father passed away today. Our condolences go out to them and their families. He then read highlights from the Police report for January reporting they had 585 calls for service including 17 alarms, 56 responses to ambulance calls, four assaults, one overdose, 23 harassments, two sex offender registrations, 11 MVA's, 24 suspicious people or vehicles, 13 shopliftings, seven thefts, 36 vacation and business checks, 13 check on wellbeing and three 9-1-1 verifications. They made 109 vehicle stops, issued 84 motor vehicle summonses and served 20 warrants. They had 20 adult arrests for the following: assault, burglary, conspiracy, disorderly conduct, dog running at large, DWI, hindering, public urination, shoplifting and unlawful remarks. He then read highlights from the Fire Department report for January reporting they responded to the following calls: six dwelling fires, three MVA's, two EMS assists, five hazardous conditions, 12 mutual aid, seven alarm systems. They had total volunteer duty hours of 100.50, 36 duty crew shifts and three drills. Commissioner Gies then read the December court report stating they had 39 criminal charges filed, 42 criminal cases resolved, 69 traffic charges filed and 50 traffic cases resolved. Funds turned over to the Borough were \$4,000.83.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for January 2022, reporting total receipts of \$697,712.88. He had some difficulty reading the report because of the format and asked the Clerk to please have the Tax Collector include commas. We had three lien redemptions totaling \$121,743.59. He added that this report will be spread on the minutes. That concluded his report.

Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr. reported on the following:

He reported they are monitoring the administration of the infrastructure bill. It appears that only water and sewer main improvements projects will qualify for grant funding; roadway and stormwater projects will qualify for low-interest loans. They will continue to monitor this program for funding opportunities. We have completed the plans and specs for the Lake Street project and they will be submitted to DOT next week. We processed the final voucher for the James Street project and will then submit to DOT for final reimbursement. Finally, we are working on the plans and specs for the drainage improvements at the intersection of Lowell, Harding and Winthrop Avenues.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office report for January reporting they issued 16 permits for a total of \$3,782.00; had six vacant property registrations for a total of \$14,500.00; and issued one resale CO for a total of \$120.00. Public Works collected 61,960 pounds of single stream recycling, 150.32 tons of trash at a cost of \$12,494.07 for disposal, and 3580 pounds of metal for \$358 in revenue. They had two winter storms and they did a good job with the storms. The second storm was plowed and salted and took about 24 hours to clean-up. Hopefully we won't see anymore snow but we are supposed to get an ice storm tomorrow. DPW will put brine and salt down ahead of the storm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tovinsky opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name for the record. Present was Stan Witkowski who asked regarding resolution 22-30, the sale of items at public auction, when is that sale? Clerk Shannon responded is at Bellmawr Public Works on February 26 at 10am. Regarding resolution 22-35, the shared service agreement with Camden County for the Kings Highway reconstruction project, what portion of Kings Highway is that? Mayor Tovinsky responded it will be from Market Street all the way to St. Rose Church in Haddon Heights. Witkowski then stated the new house at Center and New Jersey Avenue, the property where that

had been a fire, looks really nice. Do we know if he is planning to build a second house? Tara Weiss said he did get approval for two houses. Witkowski then asked for an update on Sacred Heart. Mayor Tovinsky stated that it is in the hands of the lawyers. Witkowski asked if we have entered into any agreements with a potential buyer and Mayor Tovinsky responded there are legal issues to be resolved so we really can't discuss until that is resolved. Witkowski then asked about any potential sale of the property at the corner of Black Horse Pike and Kings Highway where the gas station was located. Have we heard anything about that property being sold? Mayor Tovinsky stated we have not heard anything about the sale of that property. Witkowski added there is a fence at the back of the property that is an eyesore. Tara Weiss said she will notify the owner of the problem.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk