

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HELD IN BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Tovinsky called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the "Pledge of Allegiance". He announced that this meeting was posted in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" and proper notice of this meeting was made.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gies and Commissioner Wolk. Mayor Tovinsky was absent with prior notice. Also in attendance for the Borough were Clerk Shannon, Solicitor Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Fusco, Jr., from KEI Engineers.

PROCLAMATION

The Governing Body and Chief Conte presented proclamations to Sgt. Jason Dobleman and Ptl. Robert Bernauer, for their actions that resulted in the saving of the life of a resident who was choking.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 27, 2022, Caucus and closed session meetings, and October 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 \$836,486.33 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.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 22-100 Authorizing 2022 Budget Transfers
- 22-101 Amending the Personnel Policies for a New Covid Policy
- 22-102 Cancelling State Checks Drawn on the Court General Account
- 22-103 Appointing Two New Members to the Mount Ephraim Fire Department
- 22-104 Waiving the Raffle Application Fee for the Mount Ephraim Fire Department
- 22-105 Cancelling Taxes Due to an Exemption Granted by the Tax Assessor
- 22-106 Authorizing Execution of an Employment Agreement with the Police Captain
- 22-107 Authorizing Execution of a Lease Agreement with the Mt. Ephraim Fire Department
- 22-108 Authorizing Purchase of an E-One Rescue Pumper through the Sourcewell Cooperative
- 22-109 Authorizing a Cash Management Plan

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.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies read highlights of the September report from Municipal Court reporting they turned over \$5,439.32 to the Borough. He then read highlights from the Fire Department report for October reporting they had 42 calls and he read highlights of the calls. He then read highlights from

the Police Department report for October reporting they had 713 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They made 109 car stops and issued 124 summonses; handled 18 warrants and had 44 adult arrests and he read highlights of the arrests. MEPRI Ambulance service had 262 calls for service in October. He then thanked Public Works, Police and Fire for their work setting up for Boos and Brews.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for October 2022, reporting total receipts of \$997,556.32. We also had lien redemptions for a total of \$7,744.07. He then reported we will have the budget workshop on November 22 at 1:00pm. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Engineer Greg Fusco, Sr., reported on the following:

They started Lake Street on Thursday and will be in town for a few weeks. We were contacted by NJAW for a meeting about that project. On Monday, we received an email from DOT regarding our plans for Harding requesting a couple of changes. We are making the revisions and will resubmit so hopefully we will be able to go out for bid soon on that project.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Public Works report for October reporting single stream recycling was 57,340 pounds collected and trash tonnage was 155 tons for a cost of \$13,423.00. There will be a huge increase in recycling next year. It may go from \$5.00 per ton to \$80.00 per ton. We are working with other mayors to look for alternatives. Public Works also collected 5,020 pounds of metal, 44 yards of brush and grass, they assembled the new salt barn, set-up Kershaw School for the Camden County town meeting and set-up for Boos and Brews. Great job by our Police and Public Works at the Town Hall meeting. Thanks to the school board for letting us use the all-purpose room at Kershaw. He wished everyone happy holidays.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Present was Theresa Armbruster from Fourth Avenue. She said we need stop signs at Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Speeding is a big problem—25MPH is not working. She wants something done with the traffic and speeding on Fourth Avenue. Chief Conte said we will start the speed survey next month. We can also paint "SLOW" in the street. We can't drop the speed limit because that is set by the state. Armbruster said her car and neighbors' cars have been hit and there are kids playing in the street. Conte said the traffic study will tell us what the speeds are.

Angelique Kappatos from Valley Road thanked the Governing Body for painting behind her house. We had previously asked about a fence back there—is anything happening with that? Mayor Tovinsky said he have to get an estimate for fencing on both sides so we can see what need to budget for next year. He will discuss with our engineer and public works guy. Kappatos said there are still people sleeping back there and a lot of debris. The Mayor said we are going to do more clearing back there so vehicles can get back there. Kappatos asked about the speed study on Valley and Chief Conte said it didn't really reveal anything unusual. He added that at the Town Hall meeting, our assemblyman, Bill Spearman, said they are working on a law that will allow speed humps on stand and county roads.

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

On a motion by Commissioners Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk