

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HELD IN BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Commissioner Wolk 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 23, 2022, Caucus meeting, and September 1, 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

Commissioner Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$875,265.83 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.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 22-85 Setting the Hours for Halloween Curfew and Trick or Treating
- 22-86 Cancelling Taxes Due to Veteran Exemption
- 22-87 Revising the Amount of the Lease/Purchase of a Police Vehicle under NJ State Contract
- 22-88 Authorizing Execution of a Maintenance Agreement with the West Foundation
- 22-89 Awarding a Contract to Think Pavers for the Drainage Improvements to the Intersection of Harding, Winthrop and Lowell Avenues
- 22-90 Authorizing Execution of an Agreement of Sale with the Estate of Richard E. Vassey
- 22-91 Resolution Approving the Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License 0425-33-003-002 with Conditions
- 22-92 Appropriating Items of Revenue & Expense for a NJDOT Discretionary Aid Grant Received
- 22-93 Governing Body Certification of the 2021 Annual Audit Report
- 22-94 Authorizing the Borough of Mount Ephraim to Enter into a Third Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding with Mt. Ephraim Urban Renewal, LLC
- 22-95 Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Environmental Recovery, LLC, Relative to the Cleveland Avenue Project
- 22-96 Authorizing Participation in the Contract Negotiated by and between Camden County and Deer Carcass Removal Service, LLC
- 22-97 Appointing a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II, to the Police Department
- 22-98 Authorizing Payment for Court Appearances to the Construction Official

22-99 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

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.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gies read highlights of the September report from the Fire Department. They had 28 total calls and 320 total manhours. They completed vehicle extraction training and will be doing fire prevention in the schools and will have all the apparatus on display on October 13 at Mary Bray School and they will conduct fire education at Mary Bray on October 14. They will be doing a lot of department training in October as well. He then read highlights of the September report from the Police Department. They answered 733 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They made 152 car stops and issued 136 summonses. They served 17 warrants and had 34 adult arrests and he read highlights of the arrests. He then read a monthly report from MEPRI Ambulance reporting they responded to 100 calls in Audubon, 76 calls in Mount Ephraim, 37 calls in Oaklyn and also mutual aid calls in other towns for a total of 254 calls. He then read the court report for August reporting they turned over \$5,931.50 to the Borough.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for September 2022, reporting total receipts of \$484,610.88. We also had one lien redemption for a total of \$2,250.49. We also had our Tax Sale. Halloween Trick or Treating will be 3pm-7pm. We will be holding our budget workshop in November. We will be here again on October 25 at 3pm for the caucus and the commission meeting on November 3 at 7pm.

Commissioner Gies then read the Public Works report for Mayor Tovinsky. They collected single stream recycling of 69,400 pounds and 175 trash tons for a cost of \$15,156.47. They collected trash and recycling throughout the town and also metal and concrete. They removed graffiti at both Norcross and Shining Star parks. They also started building the new salt barn at the DPW yard. Also PSE&G has been moving heavy equipment on Lake Street so we need to discuss with them before we pave Lake.

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

We received bids for the drainage improvements on Lowell, Harding and Winthrop and the low bidder was Gerald Barrett, LLC, who requested that his bid be withdrawn as he made a mistake in the bid. The second low bidder was Think Pavers of Mount Royal, NJ, who did submit a responsive bid and a contract was awarded to them this evening. Richard Barrett was supposed to return this week to complete Idora Avenue but was delayed due to the rain. For Lake Street, the pre-construction meeting was held this week and the contractor anticipates starting that project the week of October 17.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Commissioner Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name for the record. Present was Stan Witkowski who asked about the resolution for the Sacred Heart redeveloper. He wanted to know who they were. Clerk Shannon responded they are the potential redeveloper for the project, and we are working with them on the redevelopment agreement. Witkowski asked if anyone else has come forward and the governing body responded that no, no one else has come forward at this time. Witkowski then asked about the former gas station across from the pizza place. Are there any plans for that gas station to be included in the Sacred Heart project? Commissioner Gies responded no—we are trying to get one project done for now. Witkowski asked if the borough can encourage the owner to sell the property. Commissioner Gies said we sent the notice about property maintenance but beyond that, we really can't do anything unless there are any violations. Witkowski then asked if the borough has received any stimulus

funds. CFO Paul Thomas responded we did receive funds through the American Rescue Plan and those funds are being used for the drainage project.

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 adjourned to closed session at 7:21pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk