THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 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, Commissioner Wolk and Mayor Tovinsky all present. Also on the dais for the Borough were Clerk Terry Shannon, Solicitor Chris Norman and Engineer Greg Fusco, Sr., from KEI Engineers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 25, 2022, Caucus and November 3, 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 $1,609,744.94 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:

22-111 Authorizing 2022 Budget Transfers
22-112 Authorizing Refund of a Fee Paid for a Construction Permit
22-113 Authorizing Execution of a Shared Service Agreement with Camden Co. for Project Save
22-114 Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Bellmawr for Runnemede Trash Hauling
22-115 Authorizing Signing of the Shared Service Agreement with Barrington for Clerk Services
22-116 Appropriating Items of Revenue and Expense for Camden County Open Space Grant
22-117 Authorizing an Agreement with Independent Animal Care Services
22-118 Designating Regular Meeting Dates and Times for Calendar Year 2023
22-119 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes--Blasczyk
22-120 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes—Wells Fargo
22-121 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes--Corelogic
22-122 Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Borough of Mount Ephraim Land Use Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation to Determine Whether the Proposed Study Area which Includes Block 34, Lot 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.02, 10, 11, 12 and 19, Located at or Near the Intersection of Kings Highway and Black Horse Pike, are to be Delineated as an Area in Need of Condemnation Redevelopment Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (NJSA 40A:12A-1 Et Seq.)

22-123 Authorizing Attendance at the 2022 NJLM Convention and Payment for Travel Expenses

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 October report from Municipal Court reporting they turned over $4,051.32 to the Borough. He then read highlights from the Fire Department report for November reporting they had 54 calls and he read the breakdown of the calls. He then read highlights from the Police Department report for October reporting they had 621 calls for service, and he read highlights of the calls. They made 94 car stops and issued 74summonses; handled 10 warrants and had 22 adult arrests and he read highlights of the arrests.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for November 2022, reporting total receipts of $2,549,328.28. We also had three lien redemptions for a total of $6,145.96. He then reported the newsletter has all the dates of the activities coming up. The shredding event was a big success. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Engineer Greg Fusco, Sr., reported on the following:
DOT announced that Mount Ephraim received $166,000 for Adams Avenue. We will prepare an estimate for all the work to be done. Yesterday I met with the contractor for the Harding, Lowell and Winthrop project. They called in for their markouts and sent us the shop drawings so the project is well underway—we will be scheduling the pre-construction meeting. He wished Merry Christmas to all.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office report for October reporting they issued 24 permits for $11,187 and eight CO's for $960. For November, they issued 13 permits for $1080 and nine CO's for $1080. For Public Works, single stream recycling was 42,340 pounds collected and trash tonnage was 183 tons for a cost of $15,865. They collected metal, set-up for the election, have been out with the new leaf machine daily and they shut off the water at the Little League complex. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tovinsky opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name for the record. Citizens will be allowed five minutes to be heard.

Present was Stan Witkowski who asked about the resolution directing the Land Use Board to investigate the Sacred Heart project for an area in need of redevelopment. He asked how it differed from the resolution done previously? Solicitor Chris Norman responded the analysis had to be re-done because not all of the lots were included originally. Witkowski then asked if any violations could be done on the vacant gas station property. It has been vacant for a while and everyone is looking for a solution. Mayor Tovinsky responded the owner is trying to sell the property and she did clean it up. Witkowski said we need to be persistent to motivate her to get the property sold. He asked if we can change any laws so they can be cited. Mayor Tovinsky said he will talk to the professionals to see what they say.

Terry Armbruster from 4th Avenue spoke about the traffic problem. She is waiting to see the speed study be done. Chief Conte responded they had to order a bracket to accommodate the pole for the sign and they are waiting for it to come in. As soon as it comes in, we will install it and will notify you.

Mike Rossano from Green Avenue said they are going to re-do the food pantry next to Mary Bray School. They are going to make it a little bigger so it holds more.

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