THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023, 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 present. Also on the dais for the Borough were Clerk Terry Shannon, Solicitor Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Fusco from KEI Engineers.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Tovinsky announced that we will be presenting commendations to the following individuals for their actions that resulted in the saving of a life on January 1: Patrolman Robert Bernauer, Patrolman Joseph Vogt, MEFD Deputy Chief Brian Cavallaro, Lt. Dan Hagan, Firefighters Barry McCutchen, Jay Green, Sean Bird and Aiden Scullen, and EMT's Joseph Buono and Jason Miller. Mayor Tovinsky read the proclamation explaining that after suffering a heart attack while driving a car, a resident crashed and was unconscious behind the wheel. When emergency responders arrived, the driver was in cardiac arrest. These individuals sprang into action and after administering CPR and defibrillating several times, they were able to restore a heartbeat and the driver was transported to the hospital. Because of their actions, the life of this individual was saved. The resident was also present and stood with the award recipients for photos.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the December 27, 2022, Caucus and January 5, 2023, 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 present in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of $835,370.03 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 PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

The Clerk read the following ordinance by title:

Ordinance 2023-01, an Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Changing the Day of the Regular Municipal Election.

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on this ordinance. Present was resident Michael Keating who stood and asked what the reason was for this ordinance. Mayor Tovinsky responded it was to save money and that we will save $12 to $15 thousand dollars. Keating responded that is less than a penny. Keating also said there was no advertising other than on the website and this ordinance will arbitrarily extend your term of office with no input from the public. Clerk Shannon responded that the notice was in the Courier Post. Keating asked if this passes, will you extend all the contracts for the professionals? Clerk Shannon responded that the professional contracts all expire in May. We go out for RFQ's for professional services every year in May. When we go out for RFQ's for this year, they will just be for May-December and then they will be re-solicited in

December for January appointments. Keating then said you are ignoring what has been a tradition in this town for many years. Mayor Tovinsky responded he has spoken to many people in town and no one has a problem with this change. We did not do it to extend our terms. We are just trying to save money. Commissioner Gies added that this is only one area where we are trying to save money. Keating said if you are going to change the form of government, then you should do a referendum and go partisan. Mayor Tovinsky said we are not changing the form of government—we are just changing the date of the election.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, Ordinance 2023-01 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The ordinance was adopted.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

The Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2023-02 Amending Chapter 218, Hotels and Motels, in the Borough Code

Ord. 2023-03 Amending Chapter 49, Police Department, in the Borough Code

Ord. 2023-04 Repealing the Existing Rules and Regulations for the Mount Ephraim Police Department and Adopting New Rules and Regulations

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, these ordinances were approved on first reading with the following poll vote: Gies-yes; Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes. The Clerk added that these ordinances will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held on March 2.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

23-20 Authorizing an Amendment to the Shared Service Agreement with Bellmawr for Provision of Fleet Maintenance Services
23-21 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Oaklyn for Provision of EMS Services
23-22 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Audubon for Provision of EMS Services
23-23 Authorizing Renewal of the Shared Service Agreement with Brooklawn for Provision of Building Sub-Code Official Services
23-24 Waiving Bingo and Raffle Application Fees for Mount Ephraim Police Reserves, Inc.
23-25 Appointing David Munoz as Fire Sub-Code Official

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 from the Police report for January. They had 600 calls and he read highlights of the calls. They made 66 car stops and issued 84summonses. They served 23 warrants and also had 22 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. He then read highlights of the January report from the Mount Ephraim Fire Department. From the Court report for December, he reported funds turned over the borough was $2,349.27. Commissioner Gies then

read highlights from the MEPRI Ambulance report for January. They responded to 114 calls in Audubon, 70 in Mt. Ephraim, 45 in Oaklyn, and others for mutual aid.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for January 2023, reporting total receipts of $685,506.78. We also had one lien redemption for a total of $3,041.95.

Engineer Greg Fusco reported they are receiving bids next week for the Harding and Linwood Avenue project. Yesterday we met out at 6th and Center about a stormwater pipe collapse. It was declared an emergency and repairs have been authorized.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Construction Office reporting they issued 33 building permits for a total of $9,423.00 and three resale CO's for $360. Single stream recycling collected was 60,280 pounds and 153 tons of trash for a cost of $13,670.58. They collected metal, set-up the posts for the speed limit sign, laid salt where needed and kept storm drains cleaned. 6th Avenue was buckling because of the pipe collapse and is being repaired and the manhole is being raised.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Present was Lisa McClain. She asked who owns the property along Station Avenue next to the railroad. Mayor Tovinsky responded it is owned by Conrail. She said the sidewalk needs to be repaired. She fell there today and she saw someone else trip. There are mothers with babies getting out of their cars there and it is dangerous. Greg Fusco said he has contact info for Conrail and will give it to Jim so he can contact Conrail.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk