THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 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 7:07pm 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 Wolk and Mayor Tovinsky present. Commissioner Gies was absent with prior notice due to illness. Also in attendance for the Borough were Clerk Shannon, Solicitor Justin Strausser and Engineer Greg Fusco from KEI Engineers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the November 22 Caucus and December 1, 2022, Commission meeting minutes were submitted for review and approval. On a motion by Commissioner Wolk, second by Mayor Tovinsky, the minutes were approved with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of $813,079.34 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Wolk, second by Mayor Tovinsky, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Wolk-yes, Tovinsky-yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

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. On a motion by Commissioner Wolk, second by Mayor Tovinsky, the first reading of this ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Wolk-yes; Tovinsky-yes.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

23-01 Authorizing Tax Assessor to File, Stipulate and Settle Both Regular and Added/Omitted Tax Appeals, and Roll Back Tax Complaints for 2023
23-02 Designating Departments of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
23-03 Designating Department Directors
23-04 Designating Officers and Employees of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
23-05 Designating Appointments to Borough Positions
23-06 Designating the Official Depository
23-07 Designating Official Newspapers
23-08 Setting the Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes
23-09 Appointing the Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner to the SNJREBF Fund
23-10 Appointing the Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner to the JIF Fund
23-11 Authorizing Signing of an Agreement for 2022 with Community Animal Care Services
23-12 Authorizing Signing of an Agreement for 2022 with Homeward Bound Animal Shelter
23-13 Designating Deputy Custodians of Public Records
23-14 Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Mount Ephraim

23-15 Cancelling Taxes for a Totally Disabled Veteran
23-16 Cancelling Taxes Due to an Exemption Granted by Assessor
23-17 Approving a Temporary Budget for Year 2023

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

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE LAND USE BOARD

The Clerk read the following appointments by the Mayor:

Class 4 member, unexpired term ending May, 2026—Michael Marrone (formerly Alt. #1)
Class 4 Alt. #1, unexpired term ending May, 2024—Douglas Morgan (formerly Alt. #2)
Class 4 Alt. #2, unexpired term ending May, 2023—Jason Kerns (formerly Alt. #3)
Class 4 Alt. #3, unexpired term ending May, 2023--Rocco Vespe (new member)

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Due to Commissioner Gies' absence, Chief Conte read the Mount Ephraim police report for December. They had 548 calls, made 42 car stops, issued 56 motor vehicle summonses, served 12 warrants and had 31 adult arrests for the month and he read the charges for the arrests.

Engineer Greg Fusco reported they are waiting to hear from DOT for authorization to advertise for bids for the Harding Avenue improvements. They will be submitting a grant application to DCA on January 20 for improvements to recreation facilities. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Wolk read the details from the Tax Collector's report for December 2022, reporting total receipts of $179,958.14. We also had one lien redemption for a total of $54,116.74.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Public Works report for December reporting single stream recycling was 91,560 pounds collected and trash tonnage was 173.36 tons for a cost of $14,990.45. Public Works collected electronics, concrete and metal, and set-up for the holiday parade. Leaf collection has stopped so they must be bagged for trash. All equipment has been prepared for the snow season.

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 thanked the police for the sign pole, now she is waiting for the sign. Chief Conte said Public Works will be installing the sign. She still wants a stop sign at Pennsylvania Avenue and is anxious to see the results of the speed survey. Mayor Tovinsky responded that we will take care of her as fast as we can.

Angelique Kappatos from Valley Road said she received a letter about Wawa going before the planning board on Monday. She is opposed to what they want to do on Valley Road. She asked if residents have a say. Mayor Tovinsky responded that any residents who wants to be heard will be heard. The board will do what is best for the residents. He added that he was told that starting this year, the county will allow speed bumps on county roads. Kappatos said she is concerned about the traffic coming in and out of the Wawa driveway and the backup at the light. Vasile Kappatos asked if he could photograph the plans and the Clerk responded that they will be posted on the website. Ms. Kappatos added that PSE&G left a mess on Valley Road after the work they did and she has cleaned it up twice. Mayor Tovinsky said he will have Jim Beebe contact them and if we can, we will run the street sweeper. Ms. Armbruster added that she believes that the reason the traffic is so bad on Fourth Avenue is also because of Wawa. Vasile Kappatos added that when PSE&G did the intersection of Valley and the Pike, they left a ledge there and when trucks hit it, it

is very loud. Chief Conte said they will be back to do the restoration—they wait 90 days for the ground to settle.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Wolk, second by Mayor Tovinsky, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk