THURSDAY, MARCH 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 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 January 24, 2023, Caucus and February 2, 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 $1,602,529.52 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:

Ord. 2023-02 Amending Chapter 218, Hotels and Motels, in the Borough Code. She explained this ordinance shortens the duration of motel stays to seven days.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, Ordinance 2023-02 was adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes, Wolk-yes, Tovinsky-yes.

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

Mayor Tovinsky opened the public hearing on these ordinances. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the public hearing on these ordinances was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, Ordinances 2023-03 and 2023-04 were adopted with the following poll vote: Gies-yes, Wolk-yes, Tovinsky-yes.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

The Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2023-05 Amending the Borough Code to Repeal and Replace Chapter 406, Entitled "Vacant Properties"

Ord. 2023-06 Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 86, "Cannabis" to Repeal and Replace the Cannabis "Opt-out" Provisions of Section 86-1, to Authorize Class V Cannabis Retail Licensure for One Retail Dispensary as a Conditional Use in the C-Commercial Zoning District

Ord. 2023-07 Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 86, "Cannabis" to Establish Section 86-2, to Collect a Statutorily Authorized Two Percent (2%) Municipal Transfer Tax on Sales by Class V Retail Cannabis License Holders

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the ordinances as introduced were approved with the following poll vote: Gies-yes, Wolk-yes, Tovinsky-yes.

Mayor Tovinsky announced that these ordinances will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the April 6, 2023, commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

23-26 Authorizing the Firefighter Certification Program for the Mount Ephraim Fire Dept.
23-27 Authorizing Transfer of Equipment to the Mt. Ephraim Fire Department
23-28 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Audubon for Provision of EMS Svcs.
23-29 Authorizing the MEFD to Obtain Appraisal Services for Fire Apparatus
23-30 Awarding a Contract to Gerald A. Barrett for the Project Known as Restoration of the Intersection of Harding and Linwood Avenues and Storm Piping Repairs at the Intersection Harding and Lowell Avenues
23-31 Authorizing an Amended Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Brooklawn Relative to the Services of a Building Sub-Code Official/Inspector

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 the Mount Ephraim police report for February. They had 500 calls for service, made 65 car stops, issued 44 motor vehicle summonses, served 16 warrants and had 15 adult arrests for the month and he read highlights of the charges for the arrests. He then read highlights from the Court report for January reporting they turned over $2,268.09 to the Borough and $1,259.50 for public defender fees. He then read highlights from the February report from the MEFD. They had 31 calls for service including 12 alarm systems, two dwellings, two EMS assists, three investigations, five MVA's, five natural gas investigations. Mayor Tovinsky congratulated Commissioner Gies on winning his basketball championship. Commissioner Gies also wished Mount Ephraim a happybirthday.

Commissioner Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for February reporting total collections for February were $2,796,293.31 and there were five lien redemptions totaling $125,127.20. He also

read highlights from the annual report from the Tax Collector reporting total collections in 2022 of $14,586,706.87.

Engineer Greg Fusco reported this evening you awarded the contract for the intersection of Harding and Linwood Avenues. As soon as we get concurrence from DOT, we will schedule the pre-construction meeting. We also just approved all the shop drawings for the improvements to Lowell and Winthrop.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the Public Works report for February reporting single stream recycling was 52,160 pounds collected and trash tonnage was 136 tons for a cost of $12,307.00. Public Works collected electronics, concrete and metal, had all fire extinguishers inspected for the year, removed a few trees at Shining Star Park for the new camera system and we had an emergency storm drain repair at 6th and Center Avenues done by Pioneer Pipe.

Clerk Shannon announced a correction to the agenda. Resolution 23-28 says it was "Authorizing a Shared Service with Audubon for EMS Services" but that resolution was done last month. The agenda should say "Authorizing the Acceptance of the Grant from the Camden County Joint Insurance Fund for the Police Accreditation Program". The resolution itself is correct—it was just listed incorrectly on the agenda. Mayor Tovinsky thanked her for the correction.

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 she thinks the speed sign is working. She would like to see the report of the traffic study if possible. Chief Conte said he will provide her with a copy of the report when it is ready. She asked if the speed sign can remain on Fourth Avenue. Chief Conte responded that the report does not bear out that there is a speeding problem—he believes it is a volume problem. There were only 3.5% of violators. There is a low probability of speeding but there are 5,000 cars per day going down that street confirming there is a volume problem. Armbruster said someone was speeding down the street at 50mph at 2am. Mayor Tovinsky asked what she expects us to do about that? We can't be everywhere all the time. Armbruster said she appreciates all we have done but it is not enough. There are too many cars and they are travelling way too fast. She wants the speed sign to stay because it has helped. Chief Conte said he will look into it.

Rick March from George Street said he is still having a problem with the cars spinning out behind his house. It is in the parking lot behind the motel. They rev the engines and then do the spin-outs. Chief Conte said they clear the park every night around 10pm. We can't be there all the time. March suggested a gate be installed so it can be closed at night. Mayor Tovinsky said that would be the County. March then talked about the volume of traffic in Mount Ephraim. Mayor Tovinsky said he believes that problem was from DOT reducing the Pike to three lanes. They don't care what it did to the town.

Angelique Kappatos from Valley Road said the clearing of the trees in the back looks great. She then asked if the Wawa meeting is happening this month? Mayor Tovinsky said yes, it is March 13.

Hiran Patel identified himself as one of the managers of the motel. He said the ordinance to restrict stays to seven days will really cause them a problem and affect his business. He wanted to know if it could be more like two to three weeks. Seven days will really affect his business. Solicitor Justin Strausser responded that ordinance has already been adopted. Ordinances can be changed so if you want to submit a request to the borough, they can take it under consideration.

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 7:31pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk