THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 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 Stuart Platt and Engineer Greg Fusco from KEI Engineers.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Tovinsky announced that vouchers in the amount of $1,482,753.12 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.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

The Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2023-10 Ordinance to Repeal Chapter 459, Entitled Flood Damage Prevention; to Adopt a New Chapter 459, Flood Damage Prevention; to Adopt Flood Hazard Maps; to Designate a Floodplain Administrator; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date

Ord. 2023-11 Bond Ordinance Authorizing Supplemental Funding for the Environmental Remediation of Cleveland Avenue; Appropriating the Sum of $100,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to $95,000, Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

Ord. 2023-12 Establishing the 2023 Salaries of Non-union Employees and Officials of the Borough of Mount Ephraim

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, the ordinance as introduced was 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 July 6, 2023, commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

23-49 Authorizing an Amendment to the Shared Service Agreement with Bellmawr and Transfer of a Vehicle Owned by Mount Ephraim to Bellmawr
23-50 Appropriating Items of Revenue and Expense for Grants Received

23-51 Authorizing Execution of an Employment Agreement with the Police Chief
23-52 Authorizing Professional Appointments for July-December
23-53 Authorizing Execution of a Utility Agreement with NJDOT Relative to the Direct Connect Project
23-54 Adopting the 3-Year Cooperation Agreement with the County of Camden Relative to Community Development Activities
23-55 Authorizing Submission of an Application for NJDOT Municipal Aid Funding
23-56 Authorizing and Approving a Redevelopment Agreement Between the Borough of Mount Ephraim ("Borough") and Mt. Ephraim Urban Renewal, LLC ("Redeveloper") and Appointing Redeveloper
23-57 Resolution Approving the Renewal of the Lindmeier, Inc., Plenary Retail Consumption License 0425-33-003-002, with Conditions
23-58 Approving Renewal of Liquor Licenses for the 2023-24 License Term

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 court report for April 2023 reporting they turned $1920.04 over to the borough. He then read the police report for May of 2023. They had 631 calls for service and he read highlights of the calls. They had 26 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges. They also issued 85 traffic summonses. He then commented that the Memorial Day service was the best one ever. A Vietnam veteran who was killed in action and grew up in Mount Ephraim was honored. Also, the girl who sang the National Anthem was great. He then read from the fire report for May reporting they had 44 total calls and he read highlights of the calls. The chief thanks all who attended the Memorial Day activities. The fire truck is still in the shop for repairs and they expect it back mid-June. The fire company also assisted Gloucester City with a multiple row home fire and Pennsauken for a house fire.

Commissioner Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for May reporting total collections for May were $2,752,199.44 and there were lien redemptions totaling $5,449.70. He also reported that we have already received $4,250 in parade donations which is more than we have ever gotten so thank you to all. We won't be here again until after the parade so he hopes to see everyone there. He echoes Commissioner Gies' comments that Memorial Day was something special. He added that Mount Ephraim was recognized by the JIF for a reduction in lost-time accidents of 15% so our work to keep employees safe is working.

Engineer Greg Fusco reported that tomorrow they will be hand-delivering the NJDOT Discretionary Aid application to the local office in hopes we get funding to complete the drainage on Bell Road. We are working on a 2024 NJDOT Municipal Aid application for East Buckingham. We are meeting with the contractor to schedule the paving work at the intersection of Winthrop and Lowell.

Mayor Tovinsky reported that Public Works had single stream recycling of 55,440 pounds and collected 188 tons of trash for a cost of $16,900. They collected metal, power-washed the basketball courts due to vandalism, purchased topsoil for the trench where the cameras were installed, removed eight trees at Shining Star Park that were dead, and they spread 20 yards of black mulch in the flower beds. The Construction Office issued 15 permits for a total of $4505 and five resale CO's for a total of $600. The July 4 parade will start at noon at the West Center. Ales on the Rails was better than last year and was packed. He reported he got a letter from the Deptford police chief thanking us for how much our police helped them during the funeral of the officer they lost. He will turn the letter over to Chief Conte tomorrow.

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 the last study that was done showed 5000 cars a month on her street and she thinks that seems like a lot and wanted to know what that is compared to. She added that speeding is still a problem everywhere and she sees it all the time. That study was done in January-February and she would like to see how it compares to the summer. Engineer Greg Fusco said he will get the comparison data to her. She added that the Ales on the Rails event was really great. Chief Conte added he will get the study information to her as well.

Stan Witkowski asked about Rob Inverso as the municipal accountant—he thought Commissioner Wolk was the municipal accountant. Solicitor Platt explained that Commissioner Wolk is the director but Inverso is the official accountant and auditor. Witkowski then asked if we have received any monies from the opioid settlement. Chief Conte replied the settlement was made and through the counties, various programs are being set-up for outreach and education in the schools.

Sue Carney said she did not see anything on the Mount Ephraim page about events. Do we have an events page? Mayor Tovinsky said he will look into it. Carney then asked Chief Conte if he had any information on any uptick in crime in the towns that have cannabis facilities and he responded he did have an unofficial discussion with a couple of chiefs who said they have not seen any increases in crime due to cannabis facilities. She then said that on many of the little side streets, cars are parked on both sides. Can we reduce the speed limit on the side streets? Chief Conte responded that speed limits are set statutorily by the state and 25 MPH is the standard on side streets.

Angelique Kappatos asked about the corner at Valley Road—she saw trucks and workers there and wondered what was going on. Chief Conte said the hole at the intersection is getting patched tonight and that is why they are there. She then asked about the traffic light and Chief Conte responded they already got the timing changed so more cars can get through.

Bobby Ray Harris asked if it would be possible to put bollards at the corner of Black Horse Pike and Mount Ephraim Avenue. A couple of cars came really close to the curb and we are concerned about customers getting clipped. He is willing to do it at his cost but wanted to know about the approval process. Solicitor Platt explained that he would need to go before the Land Use Board for approval and Mayor Tovinsky told him to call Tara. He may also need approval from NJDOT.

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 7:40pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk