THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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.

PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the Clerk will read a proclamation proclaiming the month of September, 2023, as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Clerk Shannon read the proclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Tovinsky announced that the June 27, 2023, Caucus and July 6, 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 $1,601,869.31 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 ordinances by title:

Ord. 2023-13 Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim to Include New Chapter 307 Entitled, "Privately-owned Salt Storage" (*establishes rules and regulations for storage of salt and de-icing materials)*

Ord. 2023-14 Amending the Borough Code to Include New Chapter 404 Entitled, "Tree Removal and Replacement" (*Establishes rules and regulations regarding removal of trees on both public and private property. Both of these ordinances were mandated by NJDEP.)*

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

On a motion by Commissioner Gies, second by Commissioner Wolk, ordinances 2023-13, and 2023-14 were adopted 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:

23-76 Change Order No. 3, Restoration of Lake Street, Phase 1 and 2
23-77 Change Order No. 1, Restoration of Intersection of Harding and Linwood Avenues and Storm Piping Repairs at Intersection of Harding and Lowell Avenues
23-78 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes to Corelogic Tax Services
23-79 Appointing David Munoz as Fire Sub-Code Official as of September 18, 2023
23-80 Authorizing Approval of Mercantile Licenses for 2023

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 fire department report for August reporting 37 total calls for service. For the July court report, they turned over $3,099.42 to the borough in fees and fines. He added that a former Mount Ephraim resident, William Stopper, is now the municipal court judge. He then read highlights from the police department report for August. They responded to 595 calls for service and he read a breakdown of the calls. They made 96 car stops and issued 54 motor vehicle summonses. They served 21 warrants and had 31 adult arrests and he read highlights of the charges.

Commissioner Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for August reporting total collections for the month were $2,758,500.61 and there was one lien redemptions totaling $855.38. We received bids today for our bond sale and there were five bids received. The low bid was from First Colonial 4.28%. Closing on the notes is scheduled for September 20. You also received the audit report for 2022 and there were no findings. He thanked CFO Paul Thomas for his work on both the audit and the bond sale.

Engineer Greg Fusco reported Lake was paved and when we get out of this heat, they can finish up on that project and the state can do their final inspection. They also paved Linwood and Harding but again, we are waiting for the heat to break so they can finish that project.

Mayor Tovinsky read highlights from the public works department for August reporting single stream recycling was 65,820 pounds and trash tonnage was 175 tons at a cost of $15,792.61. Joe Ciano did a presentation at caucus to let us know that recycling and trash costs will be outrageous next year. Our contract runs out in December, and we have a group of municipalities who are working together to negotiate with the vendors, but it is not going well. Right now, we are paying $5.00 per ton for recycling and that may go up to $80 per ton. Trash is expected to go up 42%. The Mayor's Association is working on it to try to get lower costs. Public Works collected metal, set-up barricades for Cops and Bobbers, which was a great success and thanks to the police and the organizations who made that possible. They also boarded up windows at Sacred Heart and unfortunately the pumps burned out and we had three feet of water in the basement. It took several days to pump it out.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Theresa Armbruster was present to discuss traffic on 4th Avenue. Sign has been working and she has not had to call as much. Is it possible to get a solar sign? Chief Conte said he will look into it. Some of the 25 mph signs are really worn and can we replace them. There is an autistic child in the 200 block and she would like to see that sign illuminated. Chief Conte said he will have an officer go around to look at all the signs and make a list of those that need to be replaced.

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 7:20pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk