

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024, MOUNT EPHRAIM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HELD IN BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Carney called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. She 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 Mayor Carney, Commissioner Marrone and Commissioner Wolk all present. Also in attendance for the Borough were Clerk Shannon, Solicitor Stuart Platt and Engineer Greg Fusco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Carney announced that the December 7, 2023, commission meeting and January 6, 2024, Reorganization meeting minutes were submitted for review and approval. On a motion by Commissioner Marrone, second by Commissioner Wolk, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Carney announced that vouchers in the amount of \$711,503.02 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Marrone, second by Commissioner Wolk, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Carney-yes; Marrone-yes, Wolk-yes

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

The Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 2024-01 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment and Completion of Various Capital Improvements in and for the Borough of Mount Ephraim, County of Camden, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$1,060,295 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligations Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Mount Ephraim, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$651,402 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

On a motion by Commissioner Wolk, second by Commissioner Marrone, Ordinance 2024-01 was approved with the following poll vote: Carney-yes; Marrone-yes; Wolk-yes.

Ord. 2024-02 Amending Chapter 410 of the Code of the Borough of Mount Ephraim Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” (stop sign on Linwood at Davis)

On a motion by Commissioner Wolk, second by Commissioner Marrone, Ordinance 2024-02 was approved with the following poll vote: Carney-yes; Marrone-yes; Wolk-yes.

Mayor Carney announced that these ordinances will be considered for adoption following proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the March 7, 2024, commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA

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

24-20 Waiving the Bingo/Raffle Fees for MEPRI

24-21 Awarding a Contract to Voorhees Animal Orphanage for Shelter Services

- 24-22 Removing License Restrictions on the Liquor License Held by the Spread Eagle Tavern
- 24-23 Approving Revisions to the Personnel Policy Manual and Adoption of the Youth Protection Policy
- 24-24 Authorizing 2023 Budget Reserves Transfers
- 24-25 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Bellmawr for Paving Services
- 24-26 Renewing the Contract with Fire Recovery for Fire Dept. Billing Services
- 24-27 Resolution Amending the Terms of the Members of the Joint Land Use Board
- 24-28 Resolution Adopting a Temporary Capital Budget
- 24-29 Resolution Authorizing Execution and Submission of an Application for Local Recreation Improvement Grant, FY2024, for Improvements to the Mount Ephraim Little League Complex

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

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Marrone read highlights from the January monthly report from Public Works. Recycling collection was 61,360 pounds and trash tonnage was 172 tons for a cost of \$15,493.95. They removed graffiti from the parks, repaired potholes, collected 4180 pounds of metal, removed a fallen tree and took down the holiday wreaths. We were able to use Bellmawr's bucket truck.

Commissioner Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for January reporting total collections for the month were \$804,420.64.

Greg Fusco reported they submitted plans and specs for Adams Avenue to NJDOT for their review and approval to advertise for bids. We will be out doing fieldwork on the Bell Road project and the E. Buckingham project, also a NJDOT project.

Mayor Carney reported the Fire Department had 41 assignments in December and 53 in January, an all-time high. The crew staffed the station during the two recent storms and they took delivery of the finished engine on January 31. They will train over the next month so they can deploy it in March. Thanks to the Fire Department for the lights parade and for Santa on the fire truck and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gavin for doing their part. She read highlights of the calls and incidents handled by the Fire Department. Mayor Carney then read highlights of the Police Department reports for December and January reporting a combined total of 1137 calls. She read highlights of the calls and reported they made 170 car stops and issued 143 summonses, issued 30 warrants and had 80 adult arrests. Great job by both departments. She thanked the Celebrations Committee for the fantastic job on Breakfast with Santa. She then spoke about community hunger and the food bank at Keys to Life church. We need to get the word out to our residents that the food pantry is available, or we need to come up with a way to get needed items to them. She also reported we have two openings on the Land Use Board and we are advertising for new members. We are also hoping to start a robust senior program in town and to honor our hometown heroes with a banner program.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Carney opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name for the record. The following are the individuals who were present and the issues they spoke about.

Theresa Armbruster from 4th Avenue who discussed speeding and traffic on 4th Avenue. She thanked the Police for the flashing sign. She would still like to see crosswalks done on 4th Avenue. Mayor Carney responded we are looking into other measures including signage, stop signs, police

activity, speed humps and warnings to drivers. We are exploring all options but people everywhere need to slow down.

Stan Witkowski, also from 4th Avenue, agreed that crosswalks and speed humps would be good. Regarding Sacred Heart Church, he would like to know if there is an agreement of sale. Mayor Carney responded we do not have an agreement of sale, but we have a redevelopment agreement. We are confirming that both parties, the borough and the developer, are fulfilling their requirements regarding the agreement. We are exploring other opportunities but for now, we are locked into this agreement. Witkowski then asked about the former gas station at the corner of Kings Highway and Black Horse Pike. There are things that can be done. Mayor Carney responded we just got into office and will be looking at what we can do to compel the owners of vacant commercial properties to do something to attract new business and get the owners of these properties to stop sitting on them.

Tom Crehan from Gaskill Avenue, and a member of the Rotary Club, reported there is a small pantry on Kings Highway and his wife fills that pantry weekly. She is affiliated with the Audubon Peer to Peer group. Our Rotary meets twice a month and would be available to meet with you to discuss what we can do together to combat hunger.

Mike Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, thanked Public Works for their help with snow clearing at their parking lots. He also thanked Chief Conte and the Police for their daily assistance at Mary Bray. He also thanked the Fire Department for their help regarding fire damage to one of their student's homes. He then stated they would like to use the Dougherty Senior Center for their growing pre-school program. They will need to support 103 students next year and they have no room. We would enter into a rental agreement, not for 2024 but probably for September of 2025. He feels it is a win-win as it will result in revenue for the town. Commissioner Wolk asked about the hours and Hunter responded it is a full-day program from 8:15-2:15 daily.

Also present were Vince and Bridget Simone, Brian Bell and Jeffrey Danielwicz, all residents of Lake Front Street, who said they were contacted by New Jersey American Water regarding installation of pump systems at their homes for the sanitary sewer line. They received letters saying their properties were being surveyed and that ultimately, they will be responsible for maintaining and powering these pumps. Mayor Carney responded we don't know anything about this but will have our engineer reach out to NJAW to find out what is going on. Please leave your contact info with the Clerk so we can get back to you. Commissioner Marrone also requested that they give us a copy of the letter they received from NJAW.

Rich Welsh, Baird Avenue, thanked the governing body for getting the sign put back up in front of his home.

Mayor Carney thanked the Public Works guys for their great work during the storms and also to our crossing guards who are out there in bad weather making sure our kids get to school safely. Bridget Simone added her thanks for the great job that Public Works does.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Marrone, second by Commissioner Wolk, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk