

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 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 7:04pm 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.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Carney, along with Commissioners Marrone and Wolk, presented the following proclamations:

- ◆Recognition in Memory of Judith Rice for Her Service to the Community--presented to her daughters to thank her for her service to the community and to the TNR program.
- ◆Recognizing Nancy Schiavo for Her Service to the Community—presented to Nancy for her years of service to our youth as a school teacher and a member of the Board of Education.
- ◆Recognizing Mt. Ephraim residents Charles E. Copsetta & Charles X. Copsetta for Heroism that Resulted in the Saving of Life—presented by the Governing Body and Chief Matt Frankowski for their actions in evacuating a neighbor from her home which was on fire.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Carney announced that the January 24, 2024, caucus 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 \$1,907,425.45 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 PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

The Clerk read the following ordinance by title:

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

Mayor Carney opened the public hearing on this ordinance. Seeing no 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, Ordinance 2024-02 was adopted with the following poll vote: Carney-yes; Marrone-yes; Wolk-yes.

Clerk Shannon announced that the public hearing on Bond Ordinance 2024-01 is being postponed to a special meeting to be held on March 15, 2024, at 2:00pm. This ordinance was amended and re-introduced at the February 28 caucus meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 24-32 Authorizing Advertisement for RFQ's for Selection of Professionals under a Fair and Open Process
- 24-33 Resolution Revising Designated Departments of the Borough of Mount Ephraim
- 24-34 Authorizing Advertisement for RFP's for Vehicle Maintenance Services
- 24-35 Approving Change Order No. 2—Final for the Idora Avenue Project
- 24-36 Approving Renewal of Mercantile Licenses for 2024
- 24-37 Authorizing a Refund of a Hall Rental Payment
- 24-38 Authorizing Transfer of Radios No Longer Needed for Fire Dept. Operations to the Mt. Ephraim Fire Dept.
- 24-39 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes to Corelogic
- 24-40 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes to Lereta, LLC
- 24-41 Change Order No. 2—Final for the Linden Avenue Project

On a motion by Mayor Carney, second by Commissioner Marrone, 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 February monthly report from the Construction Office reporting they issued 15 permits for a total of \$2,956.00 and seven CO inspections for a total of \$840.00. For Public Works, they collected 64,000 pounds of recycling and 141.32 tons of trash for a cost of \$13,001.44. They collected metal, did some boarding-up at Sacred Heart, had the new roof installed at Little League, installed new signage, helped install new tables at Mary Bray, and arranged for a new welcome sign near 295 which was funded by a local business.

Commissioner Wolk read the Tax Collector's report for February reporting total collections for the month were \$2,841,804.60 and \$2,610.44 in lien redemptions.

Greg Fusco reported they received authorization to advertise for the Adams Avenue DOT project; they are close to scheduling a meeting with New Jersey American Water regarding the sewer issue on Lake.

Mayor Carney asked solicitor Stuart Platt to provide an update on the Sacred Heart redevelopment project. Platt reported the borough entered into a redevelopment agreement that provides that the redeveloper obtain all approvals for construction of a supermarket at that site within 18 months of the signing of the agreement. The developer is trying to secure four residential homes and they have an agreement with two of the homes and are still negotiating with the remaining two.

Mayor Carney then reported highlights from the Police Department report from February reporting they had 623 calls for service and 41 adult arrests, stopped 147 vehicles and issued 140 summonses and they served 27 warrants. For the Fire Department, they had 45 calls for service and 17 of them were fires. They had 6 duty crews in the station totaling 108 manhours for the month. She also reported they have a hoagie sale this Saturday so please support the Fire Department. Mayor Carney then reported she met with Congressman Norcross' chief of staff and discussed many

things including a possible solar field on vacant property, expansion or creation of new programs, infrastructure issues and more. She talked about the first coalition meeting to discuss food insecurity and what programs are already in place and how they can be expanded. We plan to get information out to the residents so they know what programs are available and to work on expanding the volunteer base. She thanked the borough clerk for working on a grant request to CDBG to make improvements to the senior center and funding for a senior program. Mayor Carney then reported she has been working on internal audits to make sure we are operating efficiently and to look for any potential cost savings. She also reported that she attended a public meeting today and the USPS is making changes to mail processing that will delay delivery of mail. Some of our mail will be going to Bellmawr and then to Philadelphia which will delay your mail. Seniors and veterans who still get paper checks will get them later and this is a hardship for many people. They have an open public comment period and she encouraged everyone to respond.

Mayor Carney added that we removed the signs from the Sacred Heart property because we are going to get stronger on enforcement of the blighted commercial properties so if we are going to enforce ordinances with property owners, then we have to enforce the rules on ourselves. She has also been working with Chief Frankowski on a recruitment and retention program for firefighters. We want to do what we can to support the fire department. She added that March is Women's History Month and quoted Harvard Professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich who said "Well behaved women rarely make history".

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Seeing no 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 7:42pm .

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk