WORK SESSION
JULY 6, 2021

In compliance with Chapter 231, OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice has been given to all members of the Governing Body, the “Local Source” and the "Westfield Leader" the two newspapers designated to receive such notice. The notice is posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board.

Paul N. Mirabelli called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater and Attorney John Post. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi and Recreation Director Frank Masella. Administrator Mortimer was absent.

Discussion was held regarding the Union County Community Development Block Grant Program. In order to participate in the CDBG Program, a resolution must be adopted to enter an annual shared services agreement to cover the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The application will seek approval for the Senior Citizen Social Services Program. The proper resolution will be prepared for the July 20, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding entering into a professional services contract. The borough will renew a professional services contract with Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy PC for legal services involving labor disputes. The proper resolution will be prepared for the July 20, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a bid recommendation from the Borough Engineer for Contract 2021-4 Paving Improvements on High Point Drive, Larkspur Drive, and Pheasant Road. The Engineer recommends the base bid and alternates #1 and #2 be awarded to the lowest bidder AJM Contractors, Inc. in the amount of $321,300.70. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of July 20, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding the delivery of welcome packets. Mayor Mirabelli mentioned the welcome packets have been mailed to new residents during the pandemic and suggested that Council return to hand delivering them.

Discussion was held regarding the current snow and ice removal contract with Robert La Ferrara Construction. The Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna recommends extending the contract for two additional years. The Council agreed and the proper resolution will be prepared for the July 20, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the 2022 Recycling Contract. The current contract with F. Basso Rubbish Removal, Inc. has the option to extend the contract on January 25, 2022 for an additional two years. The Contractor is not seeking an extension. Therefore, the Borough will likely need to solicit bids for recycling services. The topic was moved to executive session for further discussion.

Discussion was held regarding the review of the 2020 annual audit. It is the twelfth consecutive year in which the financial statements had been approved by the auditors without any comments or recommendations. The proper resolutions regarding the 2020 annual audit will be prepared for the meeting of July 20, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a department refund for the cancellation of a pool membership. The proper resolution will be prepared for the July 20, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 for the police department. The vehicle will be purchased through NJ State contract at a cost of $33,389.00. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of July 20, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a request to amend the alcoholic beverage control ordinance. Vine Republic Proprietor Russell Minio suggested the ordinance regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday be revised to allow the sale in a retail distribution premise to begin at 11:00 am instead of 12:00 noon. The request would allow a competitive advantage with neighboring communities that sell alcohol at 11:00 am. The council approved the request and the proper ordinance will be introduced at the July 20, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from the Mountainside Restoration Committee for an off premise draw raffle. The application is in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve the application will take place at the meeting of July 20, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Michael Juzefyk as the PT Electrical Inspector. Michael Juzefyk would replace Joseph Marretta upon his retirement at an hourly rate of $40.00. The proper resolution will be prepared for the July 20, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding appropriating funds for the purchase of Block 14, Lots 15.01 and 15.03, commonly known as 90 New Providence Road and 903 Mountain Avenue. The purchase cost for these lots is $820,000. Two New Jersey Green Acres Grants will fund $306,250 and the borough will appropriate $513,750 towards the purchase. The borough will continue to seek other grant opportunities. The proper ordinance will be introduced at the meeting of July 20, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding borough sponsored adult events at the Municipal Pool. Councilwoman Andre promoted an event in August such as a themed BBQ with a live band and cash bar. The Council supported the event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Mirabelli announced a Covid-19 vaccination walk-in clinic at Borough Hall on July 7th and provided a monthly update.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Andre:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the following bills of the persons named and for the amounts stated below, having been duly audited and found to be correct this 6th day of July 2021, the same be paid after Council's review, if and when funds are available and that the Mayor, Council President, Administrator and Treasurer are hereby authorized and directed to sign and deliver warrants for same in the amount of $227,029.30. (Copy of bill list attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Messler and seconded by Councilman Dierkes.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to discuss personnel and contracts which are matters where the exclusion of the public is permitted; and

WHEREAS, public disclosure of the results of this discussion will be made as soon as the matters discussed have been resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the aforesaid matters shall be discussed in closed session upon adoption of this resolution.

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:57 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk