WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 1, 2022

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.

Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Council President Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater (by phone), Attorney Post (by phone) and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were Recreation Director Frank Masella, CFO Jill Goode, DPW Director Matthew DeAnna, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi.

Discussion was held regarding 2023 reorganization board appointments. Most of the board member positions will be re-appointed for another term except for a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees. The council should consider recommendations to fill this position. The Mayor suggested Valerie Wass.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize refunds for tax overpayments due to duplicate payments. The proper resolution will be prepared for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding updating the salary ordinance. Periodically, revisions are required to adjust salary ranges for certain positions. The proper ordinance will be introduced at the meeting of November 22, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for year-end budget transfers. In accordance with state statute, transfers can be made within certain budget appropriations during the last two months of the fiscal year. The proper budget transfer resolution will be prepared for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a resolution covenanting to comply with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and designating the $5,968,000.00 Bond Anticipation Note as a “qualified tax-exempt obligation”. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of November 22, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding a department refund. Recreation Director Frank Masella recommends issuing a refund for unused tennis badges. The Council approved the refund request. The proper resolution will be prepared for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the Governor’s best practices inventory questionnaire. The inventory is designed to provide standards by which local government officials can assess how we are conducting business as compared to other towns to find cost effective ways of providing services. Municipalities need to meet an established percentage of the checklist items to receive some or all of their state aid payment. The borough scored 4 “no” answers, entitling Mountainside to 100% of the allotted aid. Some of the “no” answered questions discussed were electric vehicles, anti-nepotism ordinance and overtime. Further discussion to follow in December.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a Chapter 159 resolution to include special items of revenue into the 2022 municipal budget from the Watts Mountainside Community Foundation for $4,370 and $7,055.60. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of November 22, 2022.

Discussion was held to discuss authorization to accept a subgrant award of the Emergency Management Performance Grant and Emergency Management Agency Assistance. The Office of Emergency Management applied and was granted $10,000 to enhance the borough's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. The proper resolution will be prepared for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding designated parking spaces for veterans. In order to obtain a veteran friendly certification, the borough must designate parking spaces specifically for veterans. One space will be assigned at borough hall and the other at the library. Also discussed was restriping the parking spots at the library sometime next year.

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

RESOLUTION 139-2022

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli hereby authorizes the following appointment and term to the Library Board of Trustees: Donald Rinaldo 2025

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

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Andre and seconded by Councilman Messler.

RESOLUTION 138-2022

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AN AWARD EXTENSION REQUEST FOR LA-2021 MA MOUNTAINSIDE BOROUGH MILL LANE AND RUTGERS ROAD 20 TO THE NJDOT

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that they formally approve the request for a six (6) month award for the above state project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk, or those authorized on their behalf, are to submit a formal request for a six (6) month award extension for the above referenced project to the NJ Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk is hereby authorized to sign the six (6) month award extension request on behalf of the Borough of Mountainside and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

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

BILL & CLAIMS:
The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Messler:

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 1st day of November 2022, 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 $133,426.75 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Proposed Ordinance 1315-2022 regarding recovery of costs and expenses associated with provision of fire services was discussed.

Councilman Messler discussed street signs dedicated to veterans. The borough plans to replace all the street signs in Mountainside and dedication signs can be incorporated at that time.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Hearing no one wishing to speak, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the following resolution to adjourn to closed session was unanimously adopted:

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 litigation 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 8:06 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:35 P.M.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk