

WORK SESSION
JULY 11, 2023

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 7:33 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Council President Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi. Councilwoman Andre 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 cooperative agreement to cover the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The application will seek approval for the Senior Citizen Social Services Program. The proper resolution will be prepared for the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the 2023 Kids Recreation Trust Grant Program. The Borough will apply for lighting at the Deerfield Tennis Courts or upgrades to the fitness trail. Mountainside Youth Baseball will be asked if they are interested in applying for any projects. The proper resolution authorizing borough officials to make application for the grant will be prepared for the meeting of July 18, 2023.

Discussion regarding renewal of a professional services contract for labor attorney services was moved to executive session.

Discussion was held regarding awarding the Snow & Ice Removal contract. One bid submission was received on June 14th from our current contractor LaFerrara Construction. The rates increased from \$185-\$195 an hour to \$249 an hour. The bid was reviewed and it was recommended to award the contract to LaFerrara Construction. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of July 18, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding the review of the 2022 annual audit. It is the fourteenth consecutive year in which the financial statements had been approved by the auditors without any comments or recommendations. The proper resolutions regarding the 2022 annual audit will be prepared for the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to approve Otabek Khudaybergenov to join the Junior Firemen's Auxiliary Program. The background check has been cleared and was recommended by the Fire Chief. A motion for approval will take place at the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a bid recommendation from the Borough Engineer for Contract 2023-6 Paving Improvements on Outlook Drive East. The Engineer recommends the base bid be awarded to the lowest bidder Denbar Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$158,088. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of July 18, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding raffle applications from the Mountainside Restoration Committee for an off premise draw raffle and from PTO Mountainside for an on premise draw raffle. The applications are in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve the applications will take place at the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding options for the proposed park on Mountain Avenue and New Providence Road. Todd Evans discussed the preliminary plan of the park for a consensus to move forward to the construction design phase. Also discussed were upgrades to the light poles and garbage cans. An enlarged plan will be distributed to council and later discussed at a meeting to inform the public.

Discussion was held regarding amending Resolution 79-2023. The resolution appointing Communication Officer Kara Rector indicated an inaccurate amount of time off based on a normal employee's 35-hour work week and not a 40-hour dispatcher's week. The resolution will be amended to reflect the change for the meeting of July 18, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding renewal of the Local TV Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Clark. The new annual cost has not been determined. We currently pay \$20,000 a year. The borough is satisfied with their performance and is interested in continuing the shared services.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize a tax refund to the Park West development due to payment of the entire lot instead of each individual unit. The proper resolution will be prepared for the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a department refund from recreation due to the cancellation of a pool membership. The proper resolution will be prepared for meeting of July 18, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION 88-2023

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli hereby authorizes the following appointments and terms to the Library Board of Trustees:

Carlos Santos	2023
Andrew Adornato	2024

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

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek:

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 11th day of July 2023, 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 \$104,140.93. (Copy of bill list attached)

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Scott Kline, 242 South Fork Road, thanked the police for patrolling his neighborhood.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Pater and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

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 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 8:06 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Pater and a second by Councilman Messler, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk