

**WORK SESSION MEETING
APRIL 5, 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 7:36 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Council President Andre, Councilman Dierkes (7:58 pm), Councilman Matejek, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Recreation Director Frank Masella and Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak. Councilman Messler was absent.

Discussion was held regarding the Lady of Lourdes Church request to hold a 5K run. Saverio Zipeto and Kelly Waters spoke on behalf of the church's social committee whose goal is to bring families together. It was suggested that they should collaborate with the PAL to reinvent the annual Cop Trot traditionally held at the fall festival in October.

Discussion was held regarding the introduction of the 2022 municipal budget. The municipal tax increase is 1.898% which equates to \$54.27 for an average assessed home. The Mayor summarized the proposed increases, decreases and anticipated revenues. The budget introduction is scheduled for the April 19, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to purchase gift checks for Deerfield School Graduation Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Council approved two gift checks in the amount of \$300 and \$200. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 19, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding the Memorial Day Parade donation. A ceremony will take place followed by the parade. The Council will donate \$500 for those activities. The proper resolution will be prepared for the April 19, 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 \$5,085,000.00 Bond Anticipation Note as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation". The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 19, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding the approval to appoint Antonio Famiglietti and Chandan Sandaha as new Volunteer Firefighters. The background checks have been cleared through the Police Department. Fire Chief Peter Esemplare recommends the appointments. A motion for approval will take place at the April 19, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding landscaping near the message board. Beautiful Mountainside would like to spruce up the area with new landscaping. A schematic plan and design were submitted to Council for approval. The plants were quoted at \$1,833 to be funded by the borough.

Discussion was held regarding raffle applications from the Mountainside Restoration Committee for an off premise draw raffle and Mountainside PTO 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 meeting of April 19, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding honoring the JV Girls Basketball Team and the GL Boys Hockey Team for winning championship games. Proclamations will be presented at the April 19, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding designating May as “Bag Up NJ” month. Effective May 4, 2022, NJ law will ban all stores and food service businesses from providing plastic bags to reduce litter. As a way to bring awareness and to educate the public, municipalities are designating May as “Bag Up NJ”. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 19, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding extending temporary outdoor dining at local restaurants. The Council agreed to extend outdoor dining as a way to promote more business. The state covid expansion permits were extended until November 30th. Restaurants interested in permanent outdoor settings should seek planning board approval.

Discussion was held regarding posting meeting material on the website. It was decided that resolutions and ordinances for the regular meetings would be reviewed by the Administrator and posted along with the agenda and bill list.

Discussion was held regarding awarding the 2022 Pool Concession Contract to Clark Concession Operations, LLC. Recreation Director Frank Masella received two proposals and Clark Concession has extensive experience in the food industry and worked for local pool snack bars. They were also the highest bid at \$4,400. The awarding resolution will be prepared for the April 19, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector for the tax sale redemption of 1203 Wyoming Drive. It is requested that the Finance Officer be authorized to issue a check to the lien holder for the redemption of this tax lien due to the sale of this property. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 19, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding retaining an architectural engineer to provide an overall schematic design for the pool. The proposal cost is \$14,000 to be capped at \$17,000.

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 5th day of April 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 \$105,911.80 (Copy of bill list attached.)

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes 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 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 8:21 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilman Matejek and a second by Councilwoman Andre, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk