REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 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.

Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli called the meeting to order at 7:29 P.M.

INVOCATION: Council President Messler
SALUTE TO THE FLAG
ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes a second by Councilman Messler, the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on August 15, 2023 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Pacifico a second by Councilwoman Pater, the minutes of the Work Session Meeting held on September 5, 2023 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0.

PROCLAMATIONS:

WHEREAS, John Iwanyshyn passed away on August 5, 2023 at the age of 102; and

WHEREAS, John was a long-time resident of Cranford before moving to Mountainside in 1974; and

WHEREAS, John met Inez Mathisen and they were happily married for 75 years; and

WHEREAS, John enlisted in the Coast Guard and served during WWII. He was employed by Western Electric for 45 years; and

WHEREAS, John and Inez were active members of the Mountainside Seniors. They spent many years square dancing and traveling; and

WHEREAS, John is survived by their three daughters, Karyl-Lynn, Janice Bernhard, and Nancy Pastore and her husband David, as well as five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, John will always be remembered for his generous love and his zest for life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the current members of the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, recognize John Iwanyshyn and we extend our condolences to his beloved family.

WHEREAS, John Joseph Huss, Jr. passed away on August 19, 2023 at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, John was born on October 23, 1963, and he was the eldest of six siblings; and

WHEREAS, John is survived by his loving wife of 22 years Francesca (nee Burns), and their three cherished children, John J. III, Ava, and Patrick; and

WHEREAS, John's radiant smile was a beacon of happiness that brightened the lives of all who knew him, and that smile will forever be missed by his family, friends, and the community he touched; and

WHEREAS, John attended Christ the King grammar school in Hillside, NJ, followed by St. Benedict Prep for high school in Newark, where he excelled in soccer and wrestling demonstrating his dedication and passion for both sports; and

WHEREAS, John furthered his education by attending St. John's University in Minnesota for two years before completing his degree in Sociology at Kean University, showcasing his commitment to academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, John's exemplary work ethic was evident throughout his life, beginning as a newspaper carrier for the Star Ledger and culminating in his impressive 28-year tenure as Circulation Communication Manager; and

WHEREAS, John's commitment to community exemplified by his roles in the Boy Scouts and as a youth sports coach, inspired countless individuals to strive for excellence; and

WHEREAS, John's enduring memory will forever be marked by his boundless love and vibrant enthusiasm for life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the current members of the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, recognize John Joseph Huss, Jr's indomitable spirit, we extend our condolences to his beloved family.

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Rescue Squad, established in 1938, has faithfully served our community for 85 years; and

WHEREAS, the Rescue Squad came from humble beginnings, using a converted hearse, and then acquiring their first official ambulance in 1943, continuing to evolve; and

WHEREAS, the Squad's commitment to training and excellence has been unwavering, as demonstrated by their historic 1980s drill and their dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, despite challenges in 2008, they emerged stronger, becoming one of the state's premier volunteer EMS agencies; and

WHEREAS, they expanded their capabilities with the acquisition of an EMS special operations vehicle which expands their capabilities and allows them to operate on more complex scenes without taking an ambulance out of service; and

WHEREAS, their dedicated team of 55 members from Mountainside and surrounding towns ensures our community's safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the Mountainside Rescue Squad's 85 years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the well-being of our community.

PRESENTATION:

Todd Evans and Jessica McSulla presented a preliminary park design on Mountain Avenue for community input.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION 106-2023

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside needs to refund monies to interested parties for overpayment of current year taxes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue the following refund, for the following reason:

Duplicate Payment Due Bank:
Corelogic
Centralized Refunds
P. O. Box 9202
Coppell, TX 75019-9978

Block	Lot	Amount	
5.09	7	$ 3,018.52	380 Upland Road
15.09	48.10	$ 3,317.36	208 Echo Ridge Way

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

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Andre and seconded by Councilwoman Pater.

RESOLUTION 107-2023

WHEREAS, the Recreation Director Frank Masella requested the following refunds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue the following refunds:

Applicant	Program	Amount
Darlene Garran 278 Old Tote Road Mountainside, NJ 07092	Tuesday Night Recreation	$20.00
Cheryl Mabutas 1606 Rising Way Mountainside, NJ 07092	Flag Football Camp	$175.00
Phil Spinelli 243 Oak Tree Road Mountainside, NJ 07092	Pickleball	$106.00
Michelle Blum 1324 Outlook Drive East	Pickleball-Kids	$90.00

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

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Pacifico and seconded by Councilwoman Pater.

RESOLUTION 108-2023

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that authorization is granted for the Finance Officer to issue a check in the amount of $500 to the Mountainside PTO as a donation in support of the PTO Fall Festival to be held on October 14, 2023 at Deerfield School.

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

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

RESOLUTION 109-2023

WHEREAS, receivable balance exists in the records of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the balance is as follows:

Municipal Alliance Grant $ 1,945.93

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Finance Officer cancel this balance from the records of the Borough.

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

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

RESOLUTION 110-2023

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy in the position of Communication Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside is desirous of filling subject vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the Police Committee has recommended that the Borough Council take action to hire Matthew Alexander; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Alexander is entitled to 30 hours of sick time and 30 hours of vacation time for 2023 and eligible for 80 hours of sick time, 80 hours of vacation time and 20 hours of personal time in 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Matthew Alexander is hereby appointed as Communication Officer at a starting annual salary of $46,327.68, effective August 24, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Matthew Alexander be hired as a probationary employee with a six-month probationary period in accordance with the Borough of Mountainside Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual.

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

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

RESOLUTION 111-2023

WHEREAS, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Public Contracts Law, the Borough advertised for Bids for Contract 2023-8 for “Paving Improvements on Various Streets”; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2023 the return date for the bids, six bids were received as follows:

Bidders:	Base Bid	Alt. #1	Alt. #2	Alt. #3
AJM Contractors	$214,767.04	$55,948.52	$84,477.64	$33,900.00
Denbar Construction	$221,199.04	$46,126.52	$64,147.64	$38,420.00
Topline Construction	$238,468.98	$45,515.61	$65,485.56	$33,322.00
Midwest Construction	$278,044.75	$55,554.52	$74,864.64	$40,680.00
Black Rock Enterprises	$291,585.54	$81,414.02	$124,398.64	$36,160.00
DLS Construction	$334,601.04	$93,263.52	$107,880.64	$40,680.00

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer recommends awarding the Base Bid and Alternate #1; and

WHEREAS, the lowest bidder is Denbar Construction Inc., and the Borough Engineer has recommended that Contract 2023-8 be awarded to Denbar Construction Inc., 625 B North Michigan Avenue, Kenilworth, NJ 07033.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the contract for “Paving Improvements on Various Streets” be awarded to Denbar Construction Inc., 625 B North Michigan Avenue, Kenilworth, NJ in the amount of $267,325.56 subject to Borough Attorney review.

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

MOTIONS:

The following motions were unanimously approved:

1. Authorization to appoint Nicholas Schoen and William Iden as Volunteer Firefighters

2. Approve raffle application from Highlander Booster Club for an on premise 50/50 draw raffle

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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 19th day of September 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 $247,297.75 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Dierkes announced the Fire Department Wetdown.

Councilman Messler invited the pubic to upcoming events and commented on the new electronic board.

Councilwoman Andre mentioned the Rescue Squad Haunted Trail.

Mayor Mirabelli spoke about Mountainside Restaurant Week and an article about our town in the NJ Monthly Magazine.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Matejek, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk