

**WORK SESSION
JANUARY 13, 2026**

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 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Council President Matejek, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilman Rinaldo, Councilman Van Deusen, Councilwoman Wass, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were CFO Justyna Diaz, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna and Recreation Director Frank Masella.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of representatives to the UC Transportation Advisory Board. Council agreed to reappoint Councilman Rene Dierkes and Mike Disko as alternate, for a one-year term. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Fund Commissioner to the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. The Borough Administrator will be appointed for a one-year term. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the annual July 4th fireworks display. Garden State Fireworks, Inc. provided a quote with various date options as this year is America's 250th. Council chose July 4th at a cost of \$40,000. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for end of year budget transfers within 2025 reserve municipal budget. In accordance with State Statute, transfers can be made within certain budget appropriations during the first three months of the fiscal year. It is requested that certain transfers be made within the 2025 municipal budget. The proper budget transfer resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Van Deusen and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

RESOLUTION 24-2026

WHEREAS, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Public Contracts Law, the Borough advertised for Bids for "Contract 2025-7 Repaving of Tennis Courts at Various Locations"; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2025 the return date for the bids, three bids were received as follows:

<u>Bidders:</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alt. #1</u>	<u>Alt.#2</u>
Shore Top Construction	\$95,485.00	\$41,275.00	\$89,185.00
Halecon, Inc.	\$95,750.00	\$50,910.00	\$93,850.00
Denbar Construction	\$101,532.00	\$47,652.00	\$99,732.00

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer recommends awarding the Base Bid, Alternate #1 and Alternate #2; and

WHEREAS, the lowest bidder is Shore Top Construction and the Borough Engineer has recommended that Contract 2025-7 be awarded to Shore Top Construction, 23 Yellowbrook Road, Freehold, NJ 07728.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the contract for "Repaving of Tennis Courts at Various Locations" be awarded to Shore Top Construction in the amount of \$225,945.00 subject to Borough Attorney review.

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 25-2026

WHEREAS the owner of 10 Tanglewood Lane, had taken real estate tax appeals for 2024 and 2025, and

WHEREAS such appeals were settled and Judgments were entered in the New Jersey State Tax Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the State Tax Court Judgments be implemented as follows:

ADDRESS	Block	Lot	Tax Year	Tax Rate	Final Assessment	Refund
10 Tanglewood Lane	22.02	3	2024	2.050	\$940,000.00	\$3,985.20
10 Tanglewood Lane	22.02	3	2025	2.100	\$900,000.00	\$4,922.40

AMOUNT OF REFUND: \$8,907.60

Make Check Payable to:
The Englert Law Firm, LLC Attorney Trust Account

Forward to:
58 Livingston Avenue
Dover, NJ 07801

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this tax court judgment be processed between the 45th and 60th day from the date of judgment entered 11/21/2025.

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Wass and seconded by Councilman Van Deusen.

RESOLUTION 26-2026

APPOINTING EB EMPLOYEE SOLUTIONS, LLC, DBA AS THE DIFFERENCE CARD TO PROVIDE HRA SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE LIBRARY DIVISION (0947-01)

WHEREAS, Mountainside Borough (“Borough”) provides health insurance coverage for its employees and is subject to certain requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Borough may appoint a VENDOR to provide HRA Services, as an Extraordinary and Unspecifiable Service, in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A-11-5(1)(m); and

WHEREAS, it is the Mountainside Borough’s intention to offer our employees the opportunity to enroll in NJ HDHigh + Difference Card with a fully funded Health Reimbursement Account in the amount \$12,400 for each employee regardless of coverage (single, member/spouse, parent/child and family) to be effective March 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified that there will be a health benefits appropriation which is included each year in the Borough’s annual operation budget; and

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified that funds will be allocated in the 2026 operating budget for full-time employees who opt-in for health benefits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The EB Employee Solutions, LLC, dba as The Difference Card (hereinafter the VENDOR) with a business address of 200 Business Park Drive, Suite 311, Armonk, NY 10504 is appointed to provide HRA Services for the period March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.
2. The EB Employee Solutions, LLC shall receive a fee for their services of \$92.17 per employee per month, inclusive of any and all broker fees.
3. There shall be a \$2,500 one-time set-up fee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that All associated fees due to the VENDOR will be paid by the Borough directly to the VENDOR.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough is hereby authorized to execute contracts between the Borough and the VENDOR set forth in this resolution with terms and conditions as required by the Borough.

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

Discussion was held regarding non-union employee health insurance requirement. Due to the high increase to the 2026 health benefits the Council determined that new non-union employees should enroll in the NJ HDHigh + Difference Card.

Discussion was held regarding America’s 250th Celebration. A committee will be formed to coordinate a series of events to commemorate the celebration. The committee will consist of borough officials including Councilman Van Deusen, Councilwoman Wass, Administrator Mortimer and seeking other volunteers like historical society members, school officials, students, seniors and residents.

Discussion was held regarding the Fire Department EV Fire Certification. In order for the state to approve the Mountainside Firehouse to become an eligible organization for accredited training facility a resolution is required with the application. This will enable an upcoming training for credits on EV vehicles. The resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the corner park. The Planning Board meeting in February will discuss the park plans and design. If approved will then require County consent. The borough is exploring funding sources to pay for the project estimated to cost \$325,000.

Discussion was held regarding health services contract renewal. The Westfield Board of Health proposed a 3% increase along with a 2% administrative fee for 2026. The contract would be for a five-year term. During 2027 through 2030, the annual fee will be increased by 3% each year and an additional 2% administration fee will be added each year until 10% is reached in 2030. The Council approved the contract renewal and a resolution will be passed at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of recreation staff for winter programs. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The recreation department would like to refund a participant due to cancellation. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the pool fees for the upcoming season. The council discussed the proposed recommendations by the Recreation Committee who proposed a 5% increase. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting

Discussion was held regarding support to increase the veterans property tax deduction. Legislation was proposed to increase the deduction from \$250 to \$2,500. The Council supports the increase and a resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

The Council would like to present proclamations to Eagle Scout George Newcomb and Scout Master Jeff Healy.

Discussion was held regarding revisions to the building department fee schedule. Construction Official Eger proposed fee increases to be comparable to local towns. The state auditor has requested eliminating fees that are no longer required. Attorney Post will draft an ordinance.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 13th day of January 2026, 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 \$142,413.54 (Copy of bill list attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kurt & Donna Manz, 1015 Charles Street, expressed concerns regarding Tesla providing EV training to Mountainside firefighters since Tesla is appearing before the Planning Board with a variance to allow EV vehicles to be parked at 270 Sheffield Street. The Mayor advised them to present those concerns to the Planning Board.

Alex Fiori, 1009 Charles Street, questioned if the offer for EV training was contingent upon approval of Tesla's variance. Administrator Mortimer was not aware of any agreement.

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Matejek, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk