

**WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

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 7:34 PM.

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

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

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to make additional appropriations to the 2025 temporary budget. Until the final 2025 municipal budget is formally adopted, temporary appropriations are made and approved by Council in order for the Borough to operate and meet their obligations. 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 2024 reserve municipal budget. 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 2024 municipal budget. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding non-union employee compensation. The A&E Committee recommended a 3.5% increase retroactive to January 1st. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding deferred compensation options for the employees. Attorney Post explained that there was interest in providing a second deferred compensation option. However, the proper procedure when seeking a prospective participant was not properly followed, because the initial company presented their services to the PBA rather than to the Governing Body. The Governing Body ended the discussion by requesting a summary detailing the outcome of the companies who submit an RFP (request for proposals) once the solicitation process is completed.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed payroll portal for employees. The payroll portal will allow employees accessibility to all of their payroll documents and stubs. Discussion was also held regarding mandating for all employees to enroll in direct deposit. Administrator Mortimer advised that this can be mandated through resolution. The Governing Body agreed it was appropriate to implement the payroll portal and require direct deposit for employees.

Discussion was held regarding a department appointment. The Administrator recommends bringing in Gina Tomas as a 1099 vendor to provide training for the Building Department on a part time basis. Compensation for this will be \$50/hour with a cap at \$500.00.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The Recreation Director requested refunds for summer soccer. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the recommendation for a new website. The Media & Information Committee met with several vendors and recommend entering an agreement with Gov Stack. The agreement with Gov Stack would amount to a cost of \$6,590.00 over five years with a 5% increase starting year three.

Discussion was held regarding the approval to appoint Anthony Labisi as a new volunteer firefighter. The background check has cleared. The Deputy Fire Chief recommends the appointment. A motion to approve the new firefighter will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding establishing a dedication by rider. The CFO needs to create a trust account for the donations received for tree removals. The state requires the establishment of all approved dedications by riders in the form of a resolution. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding raffle applications from NJ Services Foundation for an on premise 50/50 and on-premise draw raffle. A motion to approve both applications will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a State Tax Court Judgement for Block 16.01 Lot 43. The proper resolution to process the tax judgement will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding supporting legislation that would allow the publishing of legal ads on government websites instead of having to publish legal notices on newspapers, since more newspaper companies are no longer printing paper. The proper resolution to support the legislation will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding new subdivisions in town. New suggestions are being presented to the Governing Body to amend the ordinance, which currently allows three small-lot subdivisions at 15,000 sq. ft. The proposed amendment would require that subdivisions of three or more lots have a minimum lot size of 20,000 sq. ft. The Council would have to pass a resolution on first reading and then send it to the Planning Board. Before the second reading, the Planning Board must confirm that the amendment is consistent with the Borough's Master Plan.

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 4th day of March 2025, 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 \$306,606.22 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilman Matejek and a second by Councilman Rinaldo 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 contracts and 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 8:16 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilman Rinaldo and a second by Councilman Van Deusen, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk