

**WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 14, 2020**

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 7:31 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Council President Turner, Administrator Atkins and Attorney Post. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Tax Assessor Michael Frangella and Recreation Director Frank Masella. Councilman Messler was absent.

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Discussion was held regarding the borough revaluation. Tax Assessor Michael Frangella provided an update on the status of the revaluation. There will be a need to request an extension from the state as the deadlines will not likely be met. Attorney Post will assist with the request.

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Discussion was held regarding Liam Jackson's Eagle Scout Project. The project will entail an upgrade to the pet holding cage outside borough hall and should be completed within two months.

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Discussion was held regarding the appointment of representatives to the UC Transportation Advisory Board. Council agreed to reappoint Councilman Robert Messler and Mike Disko, Jr. as alternate, for a one-year term. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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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 January 21, 2020 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display. Garden State Fireworks, Inc. provided a quote of \$15,000 and offers additional materials on contracts paid before February 9<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed that the Borough should take advantage of this offer. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for end of year budget transfers within 2019 reserve and 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 2019 municipal budget. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the January 21, 2020 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding entering into a professional services contract with Gibbons, LLC Law Firm. The borough agreed to reenter a contract for legal services to defend the pending police lawsuit. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector for several tax sale redemptions. The Finance Officer will be authorized to issue checks to the lien holders for the redemption of these tax liens. The proper resolution will be prepared for the January 21, 2020 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the contract renewal for Public Health Services with Westfield Regional Board of Health for 2020. The contract proposes a 2%, for a total increase of \$910, bringing the annual cost to \$41,093.00. Council agreed to renew the shared services agreement for a three-year term and the proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Matthew DeAnna as the custodian for petty cash in the construction department. Due to the resignation of the former public works manager it is necessary to appoint someone to administer the petty cash. The proper resolution will be prepared for the January 21, 2020 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from OLL for a 50/50 off premise draw raffle. The application is in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve this license will take place at the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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Discussion was held regarding increasing the pool membership fees for 2020. The proposed changes include a 2% increase for resident memberships and \$7 increase for non-resident memberships. The Council agreed with the recommendation and the ordinance will be prepared for the January 21, 2020 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding employee compensation for the DPW Director. The increase was recommended and approved by the A&E Committee when the Director was appointed to this position last year. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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

**RESOLUTION 24-2020**

WHEREAS, by contract dated as of December 20, 2019 the Borough entered into a contract to purchase property known as 1329 US Highway 22 East, Mountainside, N.J. ("contract"), and

WHEREAS, the contract contained contingencies which are in the process of being satisfied, and

WHEREAS, once all of the contingencies have been satisfied the Borough will be ready to close title pursuant to the contract terms,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and appropriate Borough Officials be and they hereby are authorized to sign such documents as may be necessary to close title pursuant to the contract upon being advised by the Borough's attorneys that all conditions to the closing of title have been satisfied.

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

Discussion was held regarding cyber liability insurance coverage. The Borough Administrator Thomas Atkins highlighted a recent Joint Insurance Fund meeting regarding the importance of cyber liability insurance coverage, training, safety, and analysis of losses.

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Discussion was held regarding a recreation refund. Recreation Director Frank Masella recommended a refund for a youth who was injured and unable to participate in the program. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 21, 2020.

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**BILLS & CLAIMS:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Turner and seconded by Councilwoman Andre:

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020, 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 \$108,699.53. (Copy of bill list attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Turner and a second by Councilwoman Pater, 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 litigation, 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 7:50 P.M.

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The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:25 P.M.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilman Turner, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

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Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk