

**REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 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 7:33 P.M.

INVOCATION: Councilman Van Deusen
SALUTE TO THE FLAG
ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Council President Pacifico, Councilman Van Deusen, Councilwoman Wass, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were DPW Director Matthew DeAnna, Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Recreation Director Frank Masella and Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak. Councilman Rinaldo was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on October 21, 2025 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes a second by Councilwoman Wass, the minutes of the Work & Executive Session Meetings held on November 5, 2025 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, Alice Cowell, 82 years young, has served as a visionary force and steadfast volunteer whose leadership, compassion, and tireless energy have profoundly enriched the Borough of Mountainside; and

WHEREAS, since 1993, Alice has dedicated herself to fostering community pride, preserving local history, and nurturing the next generation through her many roles in civic, cultural, and charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, as a devoted member of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club for nearly thirty years and its Junior Chairperson for twenty-five, Alice has inspired countless young people to discover the joys of gardening, teamwork, and service, while leading beautification projects that brought seasonal flower boxes, gardens, and vibrant displays to the heart of downtown; and

WHEREAS, Alice's initiative and vision led to the creation of the Beautiful Mountainside Committee, which continues to enhance the charm and spirit of the community through seasonal and holiday decorations, ensuring that Mountainside always feels warm, festive, and welcoming; and

WHEREAS, her unwavering commitment to historic preservation has safeguarded treasured landmarks such as the Hetfield House and the Levi Cory House, saving them from demolition, raising crucial funds for restoration, and establishing the sites as centers for education, family activities, and heritage appreciation; and

WHEREAS, Alice’s leadership helped create the Blue Star Memorial Park in honor of our nation’s veterans, and her collaboration with local Scouts ensured permanent signage marking Mountainside’s historic homes—leaving a visible legacy for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, through events such as the Gingerbread Open House, Alice has brought history to life with creativity and joy, inviting families to celebrate the holidays with music, crafts, and traditions that foster community connection and pride; and

WHEREAS, beyond her public service, Alice’s compassion has shone in deeply personal ways—most notably when she opened her home to a family of five in crisis, providing shelter, encouragement, and stability until they could build a new life in Mountainside; and

WHEREAS, her generous spirit, quiet strength, and unending dedication have made her not only a leader, but also a true friend and role model whose influence will continue to inspire neighbors young and old;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside proudly recognize and honor Alice Cowell as Mountainside’s Senior of Distinction 2025, expressing deepest gratitude for her decades of service, her enduring vision, and her unwavering devotion to the community she has so beautifully helped to shape.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION 135-2025

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for transfers within certain appropriations within the Municipal Budget during the last two months of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has advised the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the need for certain transfers within the 2025 Municipal Budget exists, and

WHEREAS, this resolution authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to make these transfers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following budget transfers be ratified.

<u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Planning Board, O/E	\$6,000.00	
Tax Assessor, O/E	\$6,000.00	
Dog & Cat Regulation		\$9,500.00
Heating Oil/Natural Gas		\$2,500.00
Total	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00

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

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

RESOLUTION 136-2025

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 payments Due to:

COTALITY
ATTN: REFUND DEPT
3001 Hackberry Rd
Irving, TX 75063

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Qualifier</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Property Address</u>
3.21	23.04		\$4,319.70	1509 Fox Trail, Mountainside, NJ
4.02	12		\$3,177.66	359 Dogwood Way, Mountainside, NJ
14	14.06		\$12,662.79	6 Park West Drive, Mountainside, NJ
15.14	19		\$2,330.49	286 Indian Trail, Mountainside, NJ
16.01	7		\$2,487.98	1271 Poplar Ave, Mountainside, NJ

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

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

RESOLUTION 137-2025

WHEREAS, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Public Contracts Law, the borough advertised for Bids for Contract 2025-6 Paving Improvements on Virginia Avenue”; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2025 the return date for the bids, four bids were received as follows:

<u>Bidders:</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alt. #1</u>	<u>Alt. #2</u>
Denbar Construction	\$216,642.00	\$4,800.00	\$77,535.00
Cifelli & Son Contractors	\$224,480.00	\$3,750.00	\$87,475.00
Topline Construction	\$248,846.47	\$5,541.54	\$60,492.71
DLS Contracting	\$272,809.00	\$2,400.00	\$77,599.00

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 2025-6 be awarded to Denbar Construction Inc., 625 B North Michigan Avenue, NJ 07033.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the contract for “Paving Improvements on Virginia Avenue” be awarded to Denbar Construction Inc. in the amount of \$221,442.00 subject to Borough Attorney review.

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

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

RESOLUTION 138-2025

WHEREAS, there is a need for a P/T DPW/Engineering/Zoning/Tax Assessor Secretary;
and

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

WHEREAS, Sarah Post can perform the duties of P/T Secretary; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator recommends that the Borough Council take action and hire Sarah Post.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Sarah Post is hereby hired as P/T DPW/Engineering/Zoning/Tax Assessor Secretary at an hourly rate of \$29.00, not to exceed 28 hours per week unless approved in advance by the Administrator, effective October 28, 2025 with a six-month probationary period.

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

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

RESOLUTION 139-2025

WHEREAS the Borough's contract with F. Basso Jr. Rubbish Removal, Inc. for Recycling Services expires on January 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of such contract the Borough has an option to renew the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Recycling Contractor has agreed to a two-year extension at an annual sum of \$204,625.44; and

WHEREAS the Governing Body has determined that it would be in the best interests of the Borough to renew the term of the Agreement as it is entitled to do under the terms of the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside does hereby authorize the appropriate Borough Officials to advise F. Basso Jr. Rubbish Removal, Inc. that the Borough is exercising the option to renew the contract for a two-year term, from the period of January 19, 2026 to January 18, 2028.

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

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

RESOLUTION 140-2025

WHEREAS, Valley National Bank, C/O P.M. the owner of 882 Mountain Avenue, had taken real estate tax appeals for 2023, 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:

PROPERTY OWNER/ADDRESS	Block	Lot	Tax Year	Tax Rate	Final Assessment	Refund
Valley National Bank, C/O P.M/882 Mountain Ave.	21	24.01	2023	1.988	\$814,300.00	\$5,240.37
Valley National Bank, C/O P.M/882 Mountain Ave.	21	24.01	2024	2.050	\$714,300.00	\$7,453.80
Valley National Bank, C/O P.M/882 Mountain Ave.	21	24.01	2025	2.100	\$689,300.00	\$8,160.60

AMOUNT OF REFUND: \$20,854.77

Make Check Payable to:
Brach Eichler LLC and Valley National Bank

Forward to:
Brach Eichler L.L.C.
101 Eisenhower Parkway
Roseland, NJ 07068

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this tax court judgment be processed between the 45th and 60th day from the date of judgment entered 9/30/2025.

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

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

RESOLUTION 141-2025

APPOINTING EB EMPLOYEE SOLUTIONS, LLC, DBA AS THE DIFFERENCE CARD TO PROVIDE HRA SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE

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.

ADOPTED by Mountainside Borough at a properly noticed meeting held on November 25, 2025.

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

ORDINANCE:

**ORDINANCE 1346-2025
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1335-2024 FIXING SALARY RANGES
FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Ordinance 1335-2024 is hereby amended to read as follows:

A&E

Borough Administrator	\$	25,000 - \$130,000
Administrator Assistant		15,000 - 40,000
Borough Clerk/Registrar/QPA/Board of Health Secretary		70,000 - 165,000
Deputy Borough Clerk/Deputy Registrar/Planning Board Secretary		30,000 - 75,000
Mayor		2,500 - 8,000
Council Member		1,200 - 6,000

Finance

Chief Finance Officer/Tax Collector		70,000 - 165,000
Finance Assistant		40,000 - 75,000
Assistant CFO		60,000 - 100,000
Assistant Tax Collector		15.00 - 40.00 Hourly

Police

Chief of Police/Deputy OEM		100,000 - 225,000
Administrative Assistant/Payroll Clerk/ Planning Board Recording Secretary		30,000 - 80,000
Records Clerk		15.00 - 30.00 Hourly
Communications Officers		35,000 - 80,000
Crossing Guard		15.00 - 30.00 Hourly
Class II Special Officer		25.00 - 50.00 Hourly
Per Diem Communications Officer		25.00 - 45.00 Hourly

Building

Construction Official/Building Subcode Official/ Building Inspector		10,000 - 60,000
Construction Secretary		20,000 - 70,000
Technical Assistant to the Construction Official		40,000 - 80,000
Technical Assistant to the Construction Official (PT)		25.00 - 50.00 Hourly
Secretary: Engineer/DPW/Shade Tree/Recycling		30,000 - 70,000
Secretary: DPW/Engineer/Zoning/Tax Assessor		20.00 - 35.00 Hourly
Recording Secretary Planning Board (per meeting)		300 - 400
Inspectors: (Plumbing/Building/Electrical)		35.00 - 55.00 Hourly
Fire Prevention/Fire Subcode Official		35.00 - 55.00 Hourly
Zoning Officer		35.00 - 75.00 Hourly

Public Works Director/Deputy OEM	70,000 -	165,000
Public Works Employees	40,000 -	80,000
Public Works Foreman	40,000 -	80,000
Engineer	35,000 -	100,000
Tax Assessor	15,000 -	40,000
Assistant to Assessor	3,000 -	10,000
Certified Wastewater & Treatment Operator	2,000 -	5,000
Sub Construction Official/Inspector	35.00-	60.00 Hourly
Court Administrator	40,000 -	100,000
Deputy Court Administrator	30,000 -	70,000
Violations Clerk	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Court Temporary Staffing	23.00 -	35.00 Hourly
Court Temporary Staffing (per call)	80.00 -	150.00
Municipal Judge	15,000 -	45,000
Municipal Prosecutor	15,000 -	40,000
Public Defender	3,600 -	8,000
Miscellaneous		
Handyman	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Drug Alliance Coordinator	3,000 -	5,000
Cable TV Coordinator	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Cable TV	15.00 -	25.00 Hourly
Website Coordinator	1,000 -	5,000
Board of Health Secretary	3,000 -	7,000
Senior Citizen Coordinator	15,000 -	83,000
Senior Van Driver	15.00 -	40.00 Hourly
OEM Director	5,000 -	20,000
OEM Deputy Director	2,500 -	15,000
Temporary Staffing	15.00 -	75.00 Hourly
Administrative Secretary	1,000-	5,000
Administrative Secretary	20.00 -	65.00 Hourly
Grant Coordinator	1,000-	10,000
Recreation		
Recreation Director/Pool Administrator	40,000 -	135,000
Recreation Dept Secretary/Pool Bookkeeper		20,000 - 70,000
Assistant Recreation Director	30,000 -	70,000
Recreation Assistant	30,000-	65,000
Recreation Assistant (P/T)	20.00-	25.00
Pool Manager	6,000 -	16,500
Pool Manager	18.00-	35.00 Hourly
Assistant Pool Manager	4,000 -	10,500
Assistant Pool Manager	18.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Pool Secretary (P/T)	14.00 -	20.00
Swim Instructors	14.00 -	22.00
Head Life Guards	17.00-	24.00
Life Guards	15.00 -	22.00
Main Gate Control	14.00 -	20.00
Maintenance Foreman	14.00 -	20.00
Maintenance Personnel		
Swim Coach	1,750 -	4,500
Assistant Swim Coach	200 -	2,500
Diving Coach	1,400 -	3,000
Assistant Pool Tech	2,000 -	5,000
Fitness/Sports Instructor (per person, per class)	2.00 -	70.00
Tennis Lesson Instructor (per person, per session)	10.00 -	150.00
Art/Crafts Instructor (per person, per class)	2.00 -	40.00
Sports Supervisor (per session)	25.00 -	90.00
Sports Supervisor	15.00-	18.00 Hourly

Youth Tennis Team Coach (per season)	350.00 -	1,500
Men's Softball Supervisor (per season)		500.00
Activity Supervisor (per session)	10.00 -	75.00
Sports Official (per session)	10.00 -	180.00
Assignor (per game)	2.00 -	12.00
Summer Playground Supervisor	17.00 -	28.00 Hourly
Summer Playground Assistant Supervisor	15.00 -	22.00 Hourly
Sports Coach	1,500 -	3,500
Middle School Team Coach (per season)	350 -	4,500
Rutgers Safety Clinician	50.00-	65.00 Hourly
Sports Scorekeeper	15.00-	22.00 Hourly
Sports Trainer	25.00-	50.00 Hourly

This ordinance shall be effective upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

It was moved by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Pacifico that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in full for a public hearing on December 16, 2025.

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

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 25th day of November 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 \$436,736.20 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

PRESENTATION:

Police Chief Giannuzzi provided a Traffic Safety Presentation.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Mirabelli announced a e-bike registration ordinance to be introduced next year.

Councilwoman Pacifico announced upcoming events.

Councilwoman Wass mentioned the formation of an MAR committee to assist with the borough's new website.

The Mayor invited all to attend the annual tree lighting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

James Debbie, 288 Old Tote, commended the police for their consistent patrolling throughout the borough and emphasized that he does not support installing speed bumps, noting that they damage EMS vehicles and fire trucks and also delay first responders from reaching emergencies.

Mayor Mirabelli agreed that speed bumps should not be installed and added that he feels safe walking throughout the borough. Reflective vests are available at borough hall for anyone who needs one.

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk