

WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 1, 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 7:34 P.M via Zoom.

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

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for year-end budget transfers. In accordance with state statute, transfers can be made within certain budget appropriations during the last two months of the fiscal year. It is requested that certain transfers be made within the 2020 municipal budget. The proper budget transfer resolution will be prepared for the December 15, 2020 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of certain tax account balances. In accordance with state statute, balances in the amount of \$5.00 or less, whether owed to the borough or owed by the borough, may be cancelled with the authorization of the governing body. The proper resolution to authorize the cancellation of \$5.00 balances on various tax and sewer accounts will be prepared for the meeting of December 15, 2020.

Discussion was held regarding an amendment to the 2020 capital budget. The budget will be amended to reflect the additional purchase of a new fire pumper truck, a vehicle exhaust venting system and a turnout gear washer/dryer. The proper resolution will be prepared for the December 15, 2020 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a department refund for the cancellation of the spring soccer program. The proper resolution will be prepared for the December 15, 2020 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize a refund for a tax overpayment due to a duplicate payment. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of December 15, 2020.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of three Probationary Police Officers to fill three vacancies in the Police Department. The following candidates were interviewed, tested and offered the position: Atreu Melville, Matthew Sanagustin and Natalie Santillo. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the December 15, 2020 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding permits for rooftop solar panel installation. Currently, there are no zoning ordinances to address the installation of solar panels and therefore, requires approval by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Council was asked to consider amending the zoning ordinance to incorporate the installation of solar panels. Borough Engineer Mike Disko will likely

review the applications for approval based on specific criteria. A proposed ordinance will be discussed in January.

Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of a receivable balance in the budget. Some of the programs sponsored by the Municipal Drug Alliance did not come to fruition and therefore, left a grant fund balance that should be cancelled. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of December 15, 2020.

Discussion was held regarding appropriation cancellations from this year's budget. CFO Jill Goode explained that some of the appropriations set aside for improvements to the salt dome property should be cancelled and transferred to surplus. A memo will follow to highlight some of the cancellations. The proper resolution will be prepared for the December 15, 2020 meeting.

Councilwoman Andre announced the virtual tree lighting ceremony and plastic film recycling challenge.

Councilman Dierkes informed residents to register for the Fire Department's Santa's Express.

Councilwoman Pacifico provided a Library update about curbside hours and zoom programs.

Administrator Mortimer discussed the interviews for a DPW Laborer.

Councilwoman Pater advised residents that the Gingerbread Open House was cancelled and will be selling kits.

Mayor Mirabelli reported the Mountainside COVID-19 cases in November.

Administrator Mortimer announced free COVID-19 Saliva Testing at the Firehouse.

Mayor Mirabelli mentioned the tax assessment letters mailed to residents.

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 1st day of December 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 \$95,965.11. (Copy of bill list attached)

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Hearing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Mirabelli closed the meeting to the public.

Work Session Meeting
December 1, 2020 – Page 3

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk