

WORK SESSION MEETING
APRIL 1, 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 7:32 P.M.

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

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to purchase gift checks for Deerfield School Graduation Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Council approved two gift checks in the amount of \$300 and \$200. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding annual donations. The annual donations were approved and include the Memorial Day Parade, PTO Fall Festival, PTO Trunk or Treat and Rescue Squad Spooky Trail at \$500 per event. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Human Services Division of Planning for a Municipal Drug Alliance Grant. The grant period is effective through a fiscal year cycle for 2025-2026 and covers anti-drug and anti-alcohol programs. Kim Moriak highlighted the youth programs sponsored by the Drug Alliance. The proper resolution authorizing the grant agreement will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to auction surplus property. The list consists of two ford explorers, miscellaneous lights & sirens, vehicle parts, landscaping equipment and phones which are no longer useful to the borough and should be auctioned. The Council approved the sale of surplus property and the resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the introduction of the 2025 municipal budget. The municipal budget increase is \$619,308.92 which equates to \$176.82 for an average assessed home. The Mayor summarized the proposed increases, decreases and anticipated revenues. The 2025 capital projects include road and sewer improvements. A bond ordinance will be introduced to fund such projects. Budget introduction is scheduled for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding board committee appointments. Coady Brown will join the Planning Board as an Alternate Member and Severio Zipeto will replace Coady Brown on the Library Board of Trustees for those unexpired terms ending on December 31st. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department appointments. The Administrator recommended the following appointments: PT Temporary Staff and Recreation Seasonal Staff. At the end of the meeting, the Administrator mentioned Justyna Diaz taking the role of the Tax Collector and Former CFO Jill Goode to mentor as needed. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The recreation department would like to refund participants who cancelled their registrations. The building department requested a refund for an inspection that was not needed. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the Watchung Stables permit fee. A request was made by Union County's contractor to waive the permit fee of \$29,736 for a major renovation project. The Council agreed not to waive the permit fee.

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

RESOLUTION 49-2025

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$100,000 to carry out a project to revitalize the Borough Sports Complex.

BE IT THEREFORE, RESOLVED,

- 1) that the Borough of Mountainside does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
- 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Borough of Mountainside and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli and Administrator Glenn Mortimer are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

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

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

RESOLUTION 50-2025

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside would like to hang banners for the following events:

- 1) Mental Health Awareness Month (May 1st through May 30th)
- 2) National Night Out (July 7th through August 8th)
- 3) Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce Car Show (September 8th through September 29th)

4) Restaurant Week (September 29th through October 27th)

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council would like to request permission from the County of Union to hang banners along Mountain Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Union grant the Borough of Mountainside permission to hang such banners.

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

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 April 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 765,350.32 (Copy of bill list attached.)

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Wass and a second by Councilman Van Deusen, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk