

**WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

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 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Council President Pacifico, Councilman Rinaldo, Councilman Van Deusen, Councilwoman Wass, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi.

The following proclamation was unanimously approved by the full council:

WHEREAS, with heavy hearts, we honor the life of Candace Suzan Cantagallo, who passed away peacefully on the evening of Sunday, September 15th, at the age of 61, after her courageous battle with cancer: and

WHEREAS, Candace, affectionately known as Candy, leaves behind her devoted husband, Gary, and her cherished children, Alicia, Dylan, and Tyler. Her legacy of love and service is etched deeply in the hearts of all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated member of the community, Candy served as a Captain with the Mountainside Fire Department, an EMT with the Mountainside Rescue Squad, and as a firefighter with the NJ Forest Fire Service. Her commitment to helping others was unwavering, reflecting her profound compassion and strength; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her public service, Candy enjoyed a fulfilling career as a dental assistant, where her kindness and professionalism touched the lives of countless patients and colleagues throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, Candy was a radiant spirit, known for her welcoming smile, infectious laughter, and lively energy. She had a unique ability to light up any room, making everyone feel valued and cherished. Her friendship and warmth will be deeply missed by all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that we celebrate her remarkable life, her unwavering spirit, and the countless ways she enriched our lives. May her memory inspire us to embody the same love and kindness she so generously shared.

Discussion was held regarding a donation for the PTO Truck or Treat event. The Council questioned what the donation would be used for. Genevieve Cooper stated the funds would be used for games, prizes and candy. The Council agreed to donate \$500. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for Community Development Block Grant 51 which helps to fund the Senior Citizens Social Services Program. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The Recreation Director requested refunds for out of town applicants who signed up for men's softball. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding various department appointments. Per the Auditor, appointment resolutions shall be required for all positions therefore, various appointments will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding requiring portable toilets for new construction or large renovations. The Council is considering implementing a requirement for any construction site at which there are no bathroom or plumbing facilities and for which a construction or building permit is issued, the contractor or property owner shall provide a portable toilet for construction owners

Discussion was held regarding raffle applications from Watchung Stables Auxiliary for an off premise draw raffle and from Highlander Booster Club for an off premise 50/50 draw raffle. The applications are in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve the applications was made and unanimously approved by the Council.

Discussion was held regarding the approval to appoint Kamani Davis as a Volunteer Firefighter and Owen Younger as a new Junior Auxiliary Member. Fire Chief Peter Esemplare recommends these appointments and the background checks have cleared. A motion for approval will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a bid recommendation from the Borough Engineer for Contract 2024-3 Resurfacing of Short Drive. The Engineer recommends the base bid, alternate #1, alternate #2 and alternate #3 be awarded to the lowest bidder DLS Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$591,665.10. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a complete disabled veteran exemption for Block 10.02, Lot 4. The disabled veteran was approved for full exemption by the state and will be entitled to a refund for a tax overpayment. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding an update on the borough generator project. The project exceeded the budgeted appropriation of \$437,000 twice bid. The lowest bid received was for \$499,000 which is \$62,000 over budget. Bidders will be asked for an extension while possible funding from the budget is sought.

Discussion was held regarding the status of the DPW Garage. The exterior walls, masonry and roof trusses are completed with plywood installation to follow. The generator and HVAC are accounted for and the interior work shall commence.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes 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 1st day of October 2024, 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 \$347,942.94 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kamile Niver, 1445 Orchard Street and Ajeet Koru, 1100 Sylvan Lane inquired about when their streets will be paved. The Administrator will review the Engineer's road projects and advise accordingly.

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

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 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 7:57 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilman Rinaldo and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC