

**REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2026**

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.

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Dierkes  
**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**  
**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Matejek, the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on January 6, 2026 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Rinaldo, Pacifico, Wass. Nays: 0.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Pacifico, and a second by Councilwoman Wass, the minutes of the Work & Executive Session Meetings held on January 13, 2026 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Wass. Nays: 0.

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**RESOLUTION 27-2026**

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 Resolution 143-2025 authorized the Chief Financial Officer to make any necessary transfers prior to year-end and that these transfers be ratified at the first regularly scheduled Governing Body meeting of 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has advised the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that certain transfers were needed prior to year-end within the 2025 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that these budget transfers be ratified;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following budget transfers be ratified in the 2025 Municipal Budget.

<u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Police S/W	\$22,000.00	
Electricity		\$15,000.00
Street Lighting		\$5,000.00
Dog & Cat Regulation		\$2,000.00

Total \$22,000.00 \$22,000.00

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

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

**RESOLUTION 28-2026**

WHEREAS, the Union County Transportation Advisory Board has requested that the Borough of Mountainside appoint a representative and an alternate to serve on the Board for a one-year term; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is desirous of appointing a representative and alternate from the Borough of Mountainside;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Councilman Rene Dierkes be appointed as representative and Michael Disko be appointed as an alternate for a term to expire December 31, 2026.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 29-2026**

WHEREAS, a quote was received by the Borough of Mountainside for the July 4, 2026 Fireworks Celebration; and

WHEREAS, the quote was in the amount of \$38,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Governing body has determined that Garden State Fireworks, Millington, New Jersey is the preferred vendor; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside along with donations from local organizations will cover the costs for the fireworks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the proper Borough Officials are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Garden State Fireworks in the amount of \$38,000.00 for the 2026 July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Celebration.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 30-2026**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Administrator is hereby appointed as Fund Commissioner to the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for a term of one year expiring December 31, 2026 at no additional salary.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 31-2026**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Borough of Mountainside to contract with a regional health board in order to provide basic health and inspection services as required under state law; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Health is recommending a contract be signed for this purpose with the Westfield Regional Board of Health at a cost of \$56,721 for 2026 calculated as 3% increase from 2025, along with a 2% administrative fee; and

WHEREAS, funds have been provided in the annual budget; and

WHEREAS, the contract term shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, during 2027 through 2030, the annual fee will be increased by 3% each year and an additional 2% administration fee will be added each year until 10% is reached in 2030; and

WHEREAS, excluded from the general cost increase formula are services provided by outside vendors (TB and STD services).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the appropriate Borough Officials be and they hereby are authorized to execute the contract with the Westfield Regional Board of Health for a five-year term.

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

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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

**RESOLUTION 32-2026**

WHEREAS, the state has created a voluntary program to certify firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department has reviewed, discussed and voted to participate in the program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside appoints Fire Chief Edward Kweselait as the Authorized Signatory to sign any documents necessary to implement the Firefighter Certification Program in the Borough of Mountainside.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 33-2026**

**AMENDING CHAPTER XXIII**

WHEREAS, the Recreation Committee has determined the need to increase the Mountainside pool membership fees for the 2026 season.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mountainside pool membership fees for 2026 are established as follows:

<u>RESIDENT</u>		<u>RATES</u>
Family		\$457
Unmarried Child		\$164
2 Adult		\$436
Single		\$235
Senior Citizen		\$164
Child under 16 Joining		\$235
Single Parent/Child		\$390
Au Pair/ Nanny		\$164
Parent's Helper		\$235
<u>NON-RESIDENT</u>		
Family		\$749
Unmarried Child		\$164
Single		\$379
Senior Citizen		\$311
Child under 16 Joining		\$235
Parent's Helper		\$368
Initiation Fee	Family	\$65
	Single	\$35

- The Recreation Director reserves the right to waive the initiation fee.

GUEST FEES

Adults (\$14 weekdays & \$16 weekends/holidays)  
 Children (\$12 weekdays & \$14 weekends/holidays)

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Wass. Nays: 0.  
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Pacifico.

**RESOLUTION 34-2026**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue the following refund:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kate Connolly 1419 Whippoorwill Mountainside, NJ 07092	Basketball	\$75.00

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Rinaldo, Pacifico, Wass. Nays: 0.  
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Matejek and seconded by Councilwoman Wass.

**RESOLUTION 35-2026**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for Winter Recreation Staff for programs; and

WHEREAS, Recreation Director Frank Masella and the Recreation Committee have recommended that the following individuals be appointed to said positions:

Name	Position	Wage	
Chrono, Jeff	Gym Supervisor	\$16.00	Per Hour
Dillon, Natalie	Scorebook/Keeper	\$16.00	Per Hour
Dolan, Bryan	Clinic Instructor	\$40.00	Per Hour
Dolan, Bryan	Referee	\$60.00	Per game
Dolan, Bryan	Scorebook/Keeper	\$17.50	Per Hour
Gonzalez, Jordan	Clinic Instructor	\$30.00	Per Session
Gonzalez, Jordan	Scorekeeper	\$17.00	Per hour
Higgins, London	Scorebook/Keeper	\$16.00	Per Hour
Kelly, Kiera	Scorebook/Keeper	\$16.00	Per Hour
Masella, Ben	Scorebook/Keeper	\$17.00	Per Hour
McCabe, Dennis	Referee	\$60.00	Per Game
Melo, Gabriel	Referee	\$60.00	Per Game
Nogueira, Amari	Scorebook/Keeper	\$16.00	Per Hour
Russell. Joaquin	Referee	\$60.00	Per Game
Russell. Joaquin	Scorebook/Keeper	\$17.50	Per Hour
Silva, Nick	Scorebook/Keeper	\$17.00	Per Hour
Wargaski, Emma	Scorebook/Keeper	\$16.00	Per Hour
Grindlinger, Samantha	Clinic Trainer	\$60.00	Per Hour
Grindlinger, Samantha	Rutgers Safety Clinician	\$200.00	Per Class
Grindlinger, Samantha	Referee	\$60.00	Per Game
Wargaski, Jack	Scorebook/Keeper	\$17.50	Per Hour
Wargaski, Jack	Clinic Trainer	\$40.00	Per Hour
Flynn, Hayden	Scorebook/Keeper	\$15.50	Per Hour

WHEREAS, each of the above individuals shall be appointed as temporary employees for the 2026 Winter Season; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the recommendation of Recreation Director Frank Masella and the Recreation Committee by and herby is accepted and approved of background checks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salaries for the above positions shall be set forth in the borough's salary ordinance.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 36-2026**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey currently provides a \$250 property tax deduction for honorably discharged veterans and their surviving spouses under Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 of the New Jersey Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the \$250 deduction amount was established via a 1999 constitutional amendment and has not been increased since it was fully implemented in 2003; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, the cost of living and the burden of property taxes in New Jersey have increased significantly, greatly diminishing the relative value of the original \$250 deduction; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the New Jersey State Legislature (SCR-81 and ACR-58) which proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the annual property tax deduction for veterans from \$250 to \$2,500 over a four-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside believe that our veterans have earned this increased recognition through their selfless sacrifice and dedicated service to our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Borough hereby formally supports the passage of SCR-81 and ACR-58; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Governor, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and our representatives in the 21st Legislative District, urging them to take immediate action to place this question on the ballot for New Jersey voters.

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

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**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 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, 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 \$947,734.47 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman Pacifico and Councilwoman Wass announced upcoming events.

Mayor Mirabelli provided a snow report and commended the Community Presbyterian Church for a successful Martin Luther King ceremony.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None

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Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:47 PM.

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Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk