

WORK SESSION
JUNE 6, 2023

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.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Matejek, Councilwoman Pacifico, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were Recreation Director Frank Masella, OEM Director Keith Turner, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Borough Engineer Mike Disko and DPW Director Matthew DeAnna. Councilman Dierkes, Council President Messler and Councilwoman Pater were absent.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Borough Engineer to determine which roads to apply for this year's NJDOT Local Aid Infrastructure, Local Aid Transportation and Municipal Aid Grant applications. The Council approved the following roads: Bayberry Lane, Chapel Hill, Laurel Court, Bristol Road, Outlook Drive West, Friar Lane, Kings Court, Justin Place and Queens Lane. The proper resolution will be prepared for the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the annual renewal of liquor licenses. The establishments have been inspected and fees were paid. Public House must obtain a tax clearance in order to renew. The resolution to approve liquor license renewals will be prepared for the meeting of June 20, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a Deputy Clerk/Deputy Registrar. The Administrator recommended Kiana Taveras be appointed to this position. Council approved the recommendation. The appointing resolution will be prepared for the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a Communication Officer. The Police Committee recommend the appointment of Kara Rector. Kara passed all testing and the background check was cleared. Also discussed was the hiring of a Planning Board Secretary. In house employees Paulette Beck (\$9,000) and Kristine Moran (\$350 per meeting) will split the duties. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the meeting of June 20, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a per diem communication officer. This position would be able to cover in the absence of a dispatcher at \$30 per hour to elevate the overtime cost when a police officer is needed for coverage. Also discussed was the need to hire another police officer to cover a pregnancy accommodation and another officer who will possibly be deployed.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a Caterpillar Multi-Purpose Bucket through the Sourcewell Co-Op. Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna explained the need for a claw bucket to attach to the CAT front end loader. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of June 20, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a Chapter 159 resolution to include special items of revenue into the 2023 municipal budget for the Infrastructure & Municipal Aid Grant \$40,000, Clean Communities Grant \$17,371.65 and other expected grants. The proper resolution will be prepared for the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to advertise for bids for the new DPW Garage. Architect Don Fiore prepared new bid specs since the prior plans exceeded the projected cost estimate. A scaled down version of the project was presented and reviewed. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of June 20, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize tax refunds due to duplicate payments. The proper resolution will be prepared for the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed car show hosted by the Westfield Chamber of Commerce on September 17, 2023. A community-based event will include local restaurants and businesses. The Chamber plans and executes most of the event with the assistance of volunteers.

Discussion was held regarding lighting for the Deerfield tennis courts. The courts were relined to accommodate pickle ball. The lights were disconnected years ago and PSE&G would need to restore the power. The projected costs will be estimated and paid for through grants.

Discussion was held regarding Pride Month. The council wants to recognize the event by draping a flag outside the building.

The council decided not to join the Gateway Chamber of Commerce and instead join the Westfield Chamber of Commerce for \$250.

Some sign poles were painted in different colors and are awaiting council's approval.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 6th day of June 2023, 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 \$97,688.86 (Copy of bill list attached).

Roll Call: Andre, Matejek, Pacifico. Nays: 0

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

A motion was made by Councilman Matejek and seconded by Councilwoman Andre to approve the Resolutions of Congratulations for the Deerfield School Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The council unanimously approved.

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

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 8:24 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Matejek, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk