

**WORK SESSION  
AUGUST 2, 2022**

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 7:37 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes (by phone), Councilman Matejek (by phone), Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were CFO Jill Goode and Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna. Council President Andre was absent.

Discussion was held regarding the review of the 2021 annual audit. It is the thirteenth consecutive year in which the financial statements had been approved by the auditors without any comments or recommendations. The proper resolutions regarding the 2021 annual audit will be prepared for the meeting of August 16, 2022.

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Discussion was held regarding the Tax Assessor's request for tax exempt status to Francis Mahon, Block 5.04 Lot 26. Mr. Mahon is a disabled veteran who applied for tax exempt status. The Tax Assessor recommends complete tax-exempt status to Mr. Mahon and authorizes the CFO to refund taxes paid in 2022. The proper resolution will be prepared for the August 16, 2022 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding department refunds for the cancellation of pool memberships, micro soccer and lifeguard course. Another refund request was made for an oil tank permit that was not required. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the meeting of August 16, 2022.

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Discussion was held regarding authorization to auction surplus property. A 2008 BMW, 2011 Ford Crown Victoria, 2013 Ford Fusion, 2014 Ford Explorer, 2019 Ford Explorer, Westin Push Bumpers (2) and Herman Miller Vintage Chairs 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 August 16, 2022 meeting.

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

**RESOLUTION 102-2022**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside passed Resolution 101-2022 on July 19, 2022 to authorize borough officials to apply for the Kids Recreation Trust Grant; and

WHEREAS, the appropriation requested for recreation facility improvements was inaccurate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey that Resolution 101-2022 is hereby rescinded.

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0.

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

**RESOLUTION 103-2022**

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders established the “Kids Recreation Trust Fund” Grant Program designed to fund Recreational opportunities for our County’s children; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside wishes to apply to Union County Trust Fund through the “Kids Recreation Trust Fund” Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the proper Borough officials are hereby authorized to file an application with the County of Union for the 2022 “Kids Recreation Trust Fund” Grant Program for the following projects:

Recreation Facility Improvements	\$275,500
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that matching funds in the amount of \$137,750 (Both MSBL & Borough) have been appropriated in accordance with the grant requirements.

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0.  
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Discussion was held regarding a preliminary 22.8% rate increase for the 2023 State Health Benefits Program. The Mayor proposed introducing a NJLOM draft resolution opposing the rate increase and calling for the SHBC membership to include representatives from both local and county government. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of August 16, 2022.  
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**BILLS & CLAIMS:**

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

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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2022, 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 \$341,483.44 (Copy of bill list attached).

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0.  
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**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None  
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Upon motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Messler, the following resolution to adjourn to closed session was unanimously adopted:

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 personnel 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 7:52 P.M.  
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The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:02 P.M.

Councilman Messler addressed some concerns about downtown that were discussed at a Beautiful Mountainside meeting. The sidewalk pavers installed by the county are in need of repair, a request for improvements will be made. The street light posts are not all uniform, a request to change them will be made to PSE&G after discussing with the Barnes Tract developer. Beautiful Mountainside will address upgrading the holiday lighting.  
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Upon motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Messler, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:10 P.M.  
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Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk