

**WORK SESSION MEETING  
MAY 4, 2021**

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 PM via Zoom.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Mirabelli, Council President Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Recreation Director Frank Masella, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi and DPW Director Matthew Deanna.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a resolution covenanting to comply with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and designating the \$5,854,000.00 Bond Anticipation Note as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation". The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of May 18, 2021.

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Discussion was held regarding authorization to issue estimated tax bills. The Tax Collector recommends estimated bills be issued in case there is a delay with the state budget adoption. The Council agreed and the proper resolution will be prepared for the May 18, 2021 meeting. On another topic, Jill Goode explained that if the State has not reviewed our 2021 budget before the next meeting we can proceed with the budget hearing without officially adopting the budget. Under these circumstances, a resolution would be required to amend the temporary budget. The draft amendment will be provided to council before the meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding a reduction in the pool special emergency ordinance. After evaluation of the 2020 operations, it is necessary to cancel a portion of the special emergency in the amount of \$2,640.56. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of May 18, 2021.

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Discussion was held regarding an increase to the bid and quote thresholds. The State increased the bid threshold from \$40,000 to \$44,000 for municipalities that have an appointed QPA. As a result, the quote threshold for municipalities with a QPA has increased from \$6,000 to \$6,600. It is in the interest of efficiency and economy to raise the thresholds. The proper resolution will be prepared for the May 18, 2021 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Giovanna Mack as PT Violations Clerk. Giovanna Mack replaces a former employee. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of May 18, 2021.

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Discussion was held regarding a department refund. Recreation Director Frank Masella recommends issuing a refund due to a pool membership cancellation. The proper resolution will be prepared for the May 18, 2021 meeting.

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Discussion regarding the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 was passed on to the Police Committee for a recommendation.

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Discussion was held regarding an ordinance that requires the registration of vacant residential properties in the borough. The owner of the vacant property would be required to register, renew, enclose and secure the property and provide any required maintenance. Any violations to the proposed ordinance would include penalties. Adopting an ordinance would help address these unsightly properties. A proposed ordinance will be reviewed and discussed at an upcoming meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the Board of Health noise ordinance. The council re-addressed noise complaints about the Liquid Church due to amplified music being played on Sunday mornings. Attorney Post mentioned the ordinance mimics the NJDEP local noise ordinance and amendments would need to be provided to them for approval. The council would like the weekend hours to be more stringent. Attorney Post was asked to provide a summary of the proposed changes.

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Discussion was held regarding a proclamation to honor a recently deceased Veteran. The Administrator will provide Attorney Post with the obituary and ask the State to present a proclamation as well. A proclamation will be presented at the meeting of May 18, 2021.

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Discussion was held regarding the FAR for smaller lots. The Mayor expressed concerns with the FAR for 15,000 sq. ft. lots and proposed an increase in the subdivision lot size. The Borough Engineer was asked to recommend a more realistic FAR for these undersized lots and to better define what is considered an "addition". The current FAR for 20,000 sq. ft. lots and new construction are appropriate and will remain the same.

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Discussion was held regarding hosting a paper shredding event. The cost for the truck is \$160 per hour and the event ends when the truck reaches capacity. The council unanimously voted to provide a paper shredding event on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Mirabelli suggested we follow the County's per person limit.

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**MOTION:**

The following motion was unanimously approved:

1. Approve raffle application from PTO Mountainside for an on premise draw raffle
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Councilman Matejek announced an upcoming event at Deerfield School and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Councilman Dierkes announced today is International Firefighters' Day and thanked our Volunteer Firefighters.

Councilman Messler invited residents to attend the Electronic Recycling event.

Councilwoman Pater celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week and also provided Mountainside Restoration Committee information.

Mayor Mirabelli mentioned an award of \$40,000 from the 2021 Union County Infrastructure Grant. The Mayor provided a COVID-19 update and thanked Mountainside Beautiful for the clean up along Route 22.

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**BILLS & CLAIMS:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, 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 \$77,458.88 (Copy of bill list attached.)

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Messler, Pacifico, Pater. Nays: 0  
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**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Hearing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Mirabelli closed the meeting to the public.  
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Pacifico.

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 8:20 P.M.  
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The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilman Messler and a second by Councilman Matejek, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:35 P.M.  
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Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk