

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2025**

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.

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Wass

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

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 DPW Director Matthew DeAnna, Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Recreation Director Frank Masella and Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the minutes of the Regular & Executive Session Meetings held on November 25, 2025 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Rinaldo, Pacifico, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes a second by Councilman Van Deusen, the minutes of the Work & Executive Session Meetings held on December 2, 2025 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen, Wass. Nays: 0.

PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside is proud to support and recognize the achievements of its young athletes, whose dedication and teamwork exemplify the values of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Football Club was established in 2024 to provide a competitive and developmental soccer program for local youth, beginning with 36 children and growing to 177 children currently participating in the club; and

WHEREAS, the Mountainside FC Huskies U13 Girls Team, composed entirely of Mountainside residents, completed their 2025 Fall Season undefeated, entered the postseason as the number-one seed, and captured the Suburban Youth Soccer League First Place Championship; and

WHEREAS, the members of this team demonstrated exceptional technical growth, strategic understanding, physical competitiveness, and sportsmanship throughout the year, serving as role models for younger athletes in our community; and

WHEREAS, the team's 7th grade players provided leadership and maturity throughout the season, while the 6th and 5th grade players showed fearlessness and determination competing against older and more experienced opponents; and

WHEREAS, this group of athletes have represented the Borough of Mountainside with integrity, commitment, and pride, both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, the following players are commended for their grit, heart, and sportsmanship on and off the field: Alexa DiBella, Ariana Kadakia, Arianna Zlydak, Bryanna Costa, Brynn Sperlazza, Eleni Georgiou, Ellie Asaro, Emily McSharry, Emma Bove, Emma Reichard, Eva Silva, Everly Aspromatis, Hudson Stoddard, Jillian Tierno, Kalli Georgiou, Layla Toma, Lia Perkins, Madeline McSharry, Sophia Schiano, Tatum Borsellino, and Vivian Altavilla.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we do hereby congratulate and honor the Mountainside FC Huskies U13 Girls Team for their remarkable championship victory, and extend heartfelt appreciation for representing our community with pride, character, and resilience.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION 142-2025

WHEREAS, the A&E Committee has recommended compensation adjustments for the following Municipal Employees which would result in the compensation adjustments set forth below:

Martha Lopez salary increase of \$10,000
\$5,000 Effective September 1, 2025
\$5,000 Effective January 1, 2026

Kiana Taveras salary increase of \$10,000
\$5,000 Effective January 1, 2026
\$5,000 Effective July 1, 2026

Employees will be eligible for any 2026 annual increase that may be recommended by Council

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the foregoing compensation adjustments be implemented.

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

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

RESOLUTION 143-2025

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, the Chief Financial Officer has advised the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the need for certain transfers within the 2025 Municipal Budget exists, and

WHEREAS, this resolution authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to make these transfers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following budget transfers be ratified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized to make any necessary transfers prior to year-end and that these be ratified at the first regularly scheduled Governing Body meeting of 2026.

<u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
A& E Other Expense		\$15,000.00
Building & Grounds O/E		\$20,000.00
Heating Oil/Natural Gas		\$5,000.00
Public Works O/E	\$10,000.00	
A & E S/W	\$10,000.00	
Construction S/W	\$10,000.00	
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	\$5,000.00	
Planning Board O/E	\$5,000.00	
 Total	 \$40,000.00	 \$40,000.00

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

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

RESOLUTION 144-2025

WHEREAS, by Resolution 74-2025 the Borough of Mountainside appointed the firm of Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC as Special Counsel for Investigations; and

WHEREAS, the amount specified in such Resolution as the value of the services to be provided by such firm was \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that it is necessary to increase the amount specified in such Resolution by amendment thereto; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount specified in Resolution 74-2025 as the value of the services to be provided by the Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC firm be increased from not to exceed \$25,000 to not to exceed \$35,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment be published in the appropriate newspaper within ten days hereof.

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

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

RESOLUTION 145-2025

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to establish a Municipal Master Plan with a combination of mandatory and optional elements including Goals and Objectives, Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Community Facilities, Downtown Economic Development, Historic Preservation, and Sustainability; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are also required to reexamine the Municipal Master Plan every 10 years to ensure that the master plan meets the community needs and is relevant as communities, evolve, grow, and change; and

WHEREAS, municipalities complete this effort at great cost and community input to ensure their community has a roadmap for growth; and

WHEREAS, a municipality is best suited to plan for and understand their community's needs, the existing infrastructure to address the municipality's public safety, health, traffic, and character and the ability to expand such infrastructure for desired growth; and

WHEREAS, there are many mechanisms for exceptions and variances to the local planning process; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have been diligently working to comply with the changes outlined in the passage of A-4/S-50 in 2024 that made substantial changes to the 4th Round of Affordable Housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing construction has generally comprised between 10 – 20 % of a total development, but municipalities will end up constructing far more units during this current round of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, recent legislative proposals that preempt the planning process by permitting the conversion of underutilized properties into mixed used developments, reducing the number of parking spaces required for new developments near transit, making Accessory Dwelling Units permissible, and most recently, legislation that enhances the ability of religious and nonprofit organizations to convert certain property to inclusionary developments with affordable housing undermine the careful planning process outlined in the Municipal Land Use Law; and

WHEREAS, this proposal, S-4736 is particularly egregious because the required percentage of affordable housing units is only 20% with the remaining 80% at market rate making it more challenging for municipalities to meet their 4th Round Affordable Housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, this legislation bypasses local planning for increased density and height, regardless of a municipality's ability to ensure safety; and

WHEREAS, a worthy project could, and should participate in the local planning and zoning process to engage with the public; and

WHEREAS, S-4736 permits the bypassing of the local planning process which is an egregious assault on municipal autonomy and local decision making.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Mountainside urges the legislature to defeat S-4736 and similar legislation that denies local autonomy in land use planning and ignores the well thought out master plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Senator Jon Bramnick, Assemblymember Nancy Munoz, Assemblymember Michele Matsikoudis, Governor Phil Murphy, Governor Elect Mikie Sherrill, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

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

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

RESOLUTION 146-2025

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(c) the State Treasurer increased the bid threshold from \$44,000 to \$53,000 effective July 1, 2025 for contracting units subject to the Local Public Contracts Law for municipalities that have appointed a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA); and

WHEREAS, as a result, the quote threshold for the municipalities with a QPA has increased from \$6,600 to \$7,950 (15% of the \$53,000 QPA bid threshold); and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside has an appointed QPA in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9(b); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds it is in the interest of efficiency and economy to raise the Borough's bid threshold to \$53,000 and the quote threshold to \$7,950; and

WHEREAS, the QPA is authorized to award a contract having an anticipated value in excess of \$17,500 but below the increased bid threshold (i.e. a "window contract"); and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(c), the Borough's bid threshold is hereby increased to \$53,000 and the Borough's quote threshold increased to \$7,950; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such contracts as may be awarded under this resolution shall comply with all other applicable laws, including but not limited to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer where required.

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

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

RESOLUTION 147-2025

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Technical Assistant to the Construction Code Official (TACO); and

WHEREAS, Deanna Andre was recommended to perform the duties of a TACO; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended that the Borough take action to hire Deanna Andre as TACO for the Borough of Mountainside.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Deanna Andre be appointed as TACO at an annual salary of \$61,855.00 effective January 1, 2026 with a six-month probationary period.

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

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

RESOLUTION 148-2025

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the following are the 2026 Base Salaries of the office and positions indicated:

A & E

Borough Administrator	\$121,369.79
Borough Clerk/Registrar/QPA/Board of Health Secretary	\$147,055.76
Deputy Clerk/Registrar/Planning Board Secretary	\$ 69,912.54

Mayor	\$ 5,330.25
Council Member	\$ 3,198.15
OEM Coordinator	\$ 15,035.50

FINANCE

Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector	\$148,526.00
CFO Mentor	\$ 61.80
Tax Clerk	\$ 36.91
Finance Assistant	\$ 67,161.15

POLICE

Police Chief/Deputy OEM	\$204,185.84
Deputy OEM	\$ 2,665.13
Administrative Assistant/Planning Board Recording Secretary/Payroll Clerk	\$ 71,795.27
Records Clerk	\$ 25.95

Communication Officers

Michael Scuderi	\$ 73,830.01
Kara Rector	\$ 58,880.76
Matthew Alexander	\$ 58,880.76
Christopher Jackson	\$ 51,116.19

Crossing Guards

Janice Sileo	\$ 23.19
Betty Presser	\$ 21.63
Patricia Salvato	\$ 25.66
Alan Kennedy	\$ 23.19

BUILDING

Construction Code Official	\$ 36,281.95
TACO/Construction Secretary	\$ 63,710.65
Fire Sub code (P/T)	\$ 53.70
Zoning Enforcement Officer (P/T)	\$ 68.02
Electrical Inspector (P/T)	\$ 53.30
Plumbing Inspector (P/T)	\$ 53.30
TACO (PT)	\$ 37.08
Construction (PT)	\$ 51.50

PUBLIC WORKS

Richard Neri	\$ 66,861.62
Oscar Cardona	\$ 61,664.34
Horacio Colella	\$ 59,609.39
Wayne Jennings	\$ 73,181.99
Gabriel Baumgarten	\$ 53,227.35
Kyle Edgar	\$ 52,521.19
DPW Director/Deputy OEM	\$135,198.74
DPW Secretary/Tax Assessing Secretary (P/T)	\$ 29.87
Engineer (P/T)	\$ 85,269.02

Tax Assessor (P/T)	\$ 32,587.33
Tax Assessor Administrative Secretary (P/T)	\$ 32.96
Certified Wastewater & Treatment Operator (P/T)	\$ 4,326.80

COURT

Court Administrator	\$ 96,611.32
Deputy Court Administrator	\$ 57,007.63
Violations Clerk (P/T)	\$ 24.52
Municipal Judge (P/T)	\$ 39,058.51
Municipal Prosecutor (P/T)	\$ 33,883.68
Public Defender (P/T)	\$ 4,130.99

MISCELLANEOUS

Senior Citizen Coordinator	\$ 77,402.16
Van Driver (P/T)	\$ 22.07
Handyman (P/T)	\$ 22.07

RECREATION

Director/Pool Manager	\$126,331.64
Recreation Assistant	\$ 60,764.85
Secretary/Pool Bookkeeper	\$ 61,830.90
Pool Manager	\$ 15,475.52
Assistant Pool Manager	\$ 10,056.54

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the salary paid each office or position for the calendar year 2026, as established by this Resolution of the Governing Body, shall be effective January 1, 2026.

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

ORDINANCE:

**ORDINANCE 1346-2025
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1335-2024 FIXING SALARY RANGES
FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Ordinance 1335-2024 is hereby amended to read as follows:

A&E

Borough Administrator	\$ 25,000 - \$130,000
Administrator Assistant	15,000 - 40,000
Borough Clerk/Registrar/QPA/Board of Health Secretary	70,000 - 165,000
Deputy Borough Clerk/Deputy Registrar/Planning Board Secretary	30,000 - 75,000
Mayor	2,500 - 8,000
Council Member	1,200 - 6,000

Finance

Chief Finance Officer/Tax Collector	70,000 - 165,000
Finance Assistant	40,000 - 75,000
Assistant CFO	60,000 - 100,000
Assistant Tax Collector	15.00 - 40.00 Hourly

Police		
Chief of Police/Deputy OEM	100,000 -	225,000
Administrative Assistant/Payroll Clerk/ Planning Board Recording Secretary	30,000 -	80,000
Records Clerk	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Communications Officers	35,000 -	80,000
Crossing Guard	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Class II Special Officer	25.00 -	50.00 Hourly
Per Diem Communications Officer	25.00 -	45.00 Hourly
Building		
Construction Official/Building Subcode Official/ Building Inspector	10,000 -	60,000
Construction Secretary	20,000 -	70,000
Technical Assistant to the Construction Official	40,000 -	80,000
Technical Assistant to the Construction Official (PT)	25.00 -	50.00 Hourly
Secretary: Engineer/DPW/Shade Tree/Recycling	30,000 -	70,000
Secretary: DPW/Engineer/Zoning/Tax Assessor	20.00 -	35.00 Hourly
Recording Secretary Planning Board (per meeting)	300 -	400
Inspectors: (Plumbing/Building/Electrical)	35.00 -	55.00 Hourly
Fire Prevention/Fire Subcode Official	35.00 -	55.00 Hourly
Zoning Officer	35.00 -	75.00 Hourly
Public Works Director/Deputy OEM	70,000 -	165,000
Public Works Employees	40,000 -	80,000
Public Works Foreman	40,000 -	80,000
Engineer	35,000 -	100,000
Tax Assessor	15,000 -	40,000
Assistant to Assessor	3,000 -	10,000
Certified Wastewater & Treatment Operator	2,000 -	5,000
Sub Construction Official/Inspector	35.00 -	60.00 Hourly
Court Administrator	40,000 -	100,000
Deputy Court Administrator	30,000 -	70,000
Violations Clerk	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Court Temporary Staffing	23.00 -	35.00 Hourly
Court Temporary Staffing (per call)	80.00 -	150.00
Municipal Judge	15,000 -	45,000
Municipal Prosecutor	15,000 -	40,000
Public Defender	3,600 -	8,000
Miscellaneous		
Handyman	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Drug Alliance Coordinator	3,000 -	5,000
Cable TV Coordinator	15.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Cable TV	15.00 -	25.00 Hourly
Website Coordinator	1,000 -	5,000
Board of Health Secretary	3,000 -	7,000
Senior Citizen Coordinator	15,000 -	83,000
Senior Van Driver	15.00 -	40.00 Hourly
OEM Director	5,000 -	20,000
OEM Deputy Director	2,500 -	15,000
Temporary Staffing	15.00 -	75.00 Hourly
Administrative Secretary	1,000 -	5,000
Administrative Secretary	20.00 -	65.00 Hourly
Grant Coordinator	1,000 -	10,000
Recreation		
Recreation Director/Pool Administrator	40,000 -	135,000
Recreation Dept Secretary/Pool Bookkeeper	20,000 -	70,000

Assistant Recreation Director	30,000 -	70,000
Recreation Assistant	30,000 -	65,000
Recreation Assistant (P/T)	20.00 -	25.00
Pool Manager	6,000 -	16,500
Pool Manager	18.00 -	35.00 Hourly
Assistant Pool Manager	4,000 -	10,500
Assistant Pool Manager	18.00 -	30.00 Hourly
Pool Secretary (P/T)	14.00 -	20.00
Swim Instructors	14.00 -	22.00
Head Life Guards	17.00-	24.00
Life Guards	15.00 -	22.00
Main Gate Control	14.00 -	20.00
Maintenance Foreman	14.00 -	20.00
Maintenance Personnel	14.00 -	20.00
Swim Coach	1,750 -	4,500
Assistant Swim Coach	200 -	2,500
Diving Coach	1,400 -	3,000
Assistant Pool Tech	2,000 -	5,000
Fitness/Sports Instructor (per person, per class)	2.00 -	70.00
Tennis Lesson Instructor (per person, per session)	10.00 -	150.00
Art/Crafts Instructor (per person, per class)	2.00 -	40.00
Sports Supervisor (per session)	25.00 -	90.00
Sports Supervisor	15.00-	18.00 Hourly
Youth Tennis Team Coach (per season)	350.00 -	1,500
Men's Softball Supervisor (per season)		500.00
Activity Supervisor (per session)	10.00 -	75.00
Sports Official (per session)	10.00 -	180.00
Assignor (per game)	2.00 -	12.00
Summer Playground Supervisor	17.00 -	28.00 Hourly
Summer Playground Assistant Supervisor	15.00 -	22.00 Hourly
Sports Coach	1,500 -	3,500
Middle School Team Coach (per season)	350 -	4,500
Rutgers Safety Clinician	50.00-	65.00 Hourly
Sports Scorekeeper	15.00-	22.00 Hourly
Sports Trainer	25.00-	50.00 Hourly

This ordinance shall be effective upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Hearing no one wishing to speak, Councilman Matejek closed the meeting to the public.

It was moved by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek that this ordinance be passed on second and final reading and advertised by title only.

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

MOTIONS:

The following motions were unanimously approved:

1. Authorization to appoint Christopher Edmonson and Igor Santos as Volunteer Firefighters
2. Approve raffle applications from OLL Church for an off premise 50/50 draw raffle and Highlander Booster Club for an on premise 50/50 draw raffle

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 16th day of December 2025, 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 \$106,557.30 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Matejek commended and congratulated the DPW Department for winning the 2025 New Jersey Chapter of the American Public Works Association Project of the Year.

Councilwoman Wass announced upcoming community activities.

Mayor Mirabelli commended the DPW and snow removal contractors for their hard work during the snow storm that took place over the weekend. He wished everyone Happy Holidays!

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Dierkes, 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 contracts, personnel and 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 8:10 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 9:02 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk