

**REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

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 7:39 P.M via Zoom.

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Pacifico
SALUTE TO THE FLAG
ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Council President Turner, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, CFO Jill Goode and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Councilman Turner a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on October 20, 2020 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

Upon a motion by Councilman Turner a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the minutes of the Executive Session Meetings held on June 5, June 19, July 3, July 23, 2018 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Turner. Nays: 0.

Upon a motion by Councilman Turner a second by Councilman Messler, the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting held on August 7, 2018 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Turner. Nays: 0.

Upon a motion by Councilman Turner a second by Councilman Messler, the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting held on October 16, 2018 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

Upon a motion by Councilman Turner a second by Councilman Messler, the minutes of the Executive Session Meetings held on December 18, 2018, February 19, March 19, April 2, May 7, 2019 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION 125-2020

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 2020 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.

<u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Recreation O/E	5,000.00	
Defined Contribution Retirement Program	3,000.00	
Finance, S/W	2,000.00	
Police S/W		10,000.00

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 126-2020

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside needs to refund monies to interested parties for overpayment of current year taxes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue the following refund, for the following reason:

Duplicate payments Due to Banks

CoreLogic
Centralized Refunds
P. O. Box 9202
Coppell, TX 75019-9978

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
3.09	5	3,052.06	313 Partridge Run
7.04	22	3,663.59	236 Summit Road
7.06	8	3,234.22	1078 Sunny Slope Drive
12	1	2,587.38	878 Hillside Avenue
21	1	1,438.67	513 Woodland Avenue
21	5	574.35	513 Woodland Avenue

Wells Fargo
Attn: Refunds/Financial Support
P. O. Box 14506
Des Moines, IA 50328

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
16.06	1	2,656.15	224 Old Tote Road

Overpayments Due to Homeowner

Helio Bento
1246 Knollwood Road
Mountainside, NJ 07092

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Amount</u>
16.09	4	3,912.64

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Pater and seconded by Councilman Messler.

RESOLUTION 127-2020

WHEREAS, Bovella's 22 Real Estate Group provided a performance guarantee for site plan improvements at 1085 Route 22; and

WHEREAS, all site improvements have been completed and outstanding conditions have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer Mike Disko, Jr. has recommended that the performance guarantee escrows should be fully released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be hereby authorized to release the performance guarantee escrow in the amount of \$4,332.24.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 128-2020

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside passed Resolution 98-2020 on August 18, 2020 to authorize a purchase through State Contract T0106 for the maintenance of body worn cameras; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise, 17800 N 85th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 was awarded the State Contract and has been instructed by their legal team that the state has ceased the use of Contract T0106.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey that Resolution 98-2020 is hereby rescinded.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Turner and seconded by Councilwoman Pater.

RESOLUTION 129-2020

WHEREAS, a need exists in the Police Department for the maintenance of Body Worn Cameras; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise, 17800 N 85th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 was awarded a Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #010720-AXN, for Police Body Worn Camera hardware, TAP, and licensing; and

WHEREAS, a 5-year maintenance agreement for Body Worn Cameras will be sufficient to meet the needs of the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of adequate funds for payment, at an annual cost of \$14,238.60 for a 5-year term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that a contract for the maintenance of Police Body Worn Cameras is hereby awarded to Axon Enterprise under Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #010720-AXN at an annual cost of \$14,238.60.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

Mayor Mirabelli stated some members of council were opposed to making the Senior Citizen Coordinator a full-time position. After further discussion and feedback from the residents, the full council was unopposed and it was an example of how our democracy works. The Mayor highlighted some of the new and existing senior programs to be implemented and praised Kim Moriak for her hard work and commitment to the community.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Messler and seconded by Councilman Turner.

RESOLUTION 130-2020

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide more Senior Citizen Services to the Seniors in the Borough of Mountainside; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Citizen Coordinator position is currently part-time and during this pandemic has evolved into full-time status; and

WHEREAS, programs such as meal deliveries, wellness checks and new classes can enhance the needs of our Senior Citizens; and

WHEREAS, the A&E Committee has recommended this position become full-time; and

WHEREAS, Kim Moriak is willing to perform the duties of a full-time Senior Citizen Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Kim Moriak will continue her role as Municipal Drug Alliance Coordinator and a Key Member of the Community Development Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that Kim Moriak is hereby hired as full-time Senior Citizen Coordinator at an annual salary of \$45,500 effective January 1, 2021 with a 180-day probationary period.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 131-2020
COVID -19 SPECIAL EMERGENCY
Certification of Chief Financial Officer and Approval of Governing Body

WHEREAS, The Borough of Mountainside has experienced COVID 19 related revenue loss and extraordinary expenditures during the budget year 2020, and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2020, c. 74 provides for the funding of these revenue losses and extraordinary expenditures through a COVID Special Emergency, and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify for a special emergency under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53, as amended by P.L.2020, c. 74, the Borough must, prior to December 1, make application to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to obtain an approval of the certification of the special emergency and the resulting deferred charge in advance of the close of budget year 2020, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that there is an operational gap attributable to COVID -19 affected revenue loss and/or additional expenditures needs to be addressed prior to year-end;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Mountainside (by not less than a majority vote of the full governing body members affirmatively concurring), in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A 40A:4-53, as amended by P.L. 2020, c. 74, as follows:

1. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to submit an application to the Division Director on the prescribed form and shall certify that the deficits in revenue and additional expenditures are directly attributable to COVID-19.
2. The Chief Financial Officer has submitted said certification to the governing body for approval (attached to this resolution).
3. The Borough Council by approval of this resolution approves the certification made by the Chief Financial Officer related to COVID-19 Special Emergencies.
4. The Borough Council directs the Chief Financial Officer, the Auditor and Bond Counsel to prepare the Ordinance and Resolution for Special Emergency COVID-19 related revenue deficit and/or additional expenses pursuant to statute and regulations resulting from P.L.2020, c. 74.
5. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 132-2020
COVID -19 SPECIAL EMERGENCY
SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESOLUTION – N.J.S.A 40A:4-53, 54, 55.1 and 55.13
(3-year and 5-year Special Emergencies COVID-19 Related Operating Deficits)

WHEREAS, it has been found necessary to adopt a Special Emergency Appropriation to meet certain Extraordinary COVID-19 affected revenue losses and/or additional expenditures incurred, or to be incurred, related to the COVID pandemic, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 allows a municipality to authorize special emergency appropriations for COVID-19 related revenue loss and/or additional expenditures incurred during the COVID-19 related public health emergency, and provides that it shall be lawful to adopt such special emergency, which appropriation and/or the “special emergency notes” issued to finance the same shall be provided for in succeeding annual budgets by the inclusion of an appropriation as prescribed by the act and in compliance with the Division of Local Government Services regulations set forth as part of the COVID-19 Operating Deficits and Extraordinary Expenditures: Implementation of P.L. 2020, c.74.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, (by not less 2/3 vote of the full governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A 40A:4-55:

1. The Chief Financial Officer has been directed by Resolution 131-2020 adopted on November 17, 2020 to make a written application and certify to the Division Director, on the prescribed form, that the deficits in revenue and additional expenditures are directly attributable to COVID-1, and said certification was approved by the governing body and submitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.
2. A Special Emergency Deferred Charge is hereby established for COVID-19 affected revenue losses in the total amount of \$220,902.60.
3. A Special emergency appropriation is hereby made for COVID-19 Expenditures in the total amount of \$0.00.
4. That the total emergency appropriation shall be provided for in the budgets of succeeding years beginning in 2022 by the inclusion of not less than \$44,180.52 (must be at least one fifth of the total amount).
5. That special emergency notes, not in excess of the amount authorized pursuant to law, may be issued.
6. That such notes when issued shall be executed by Borough of Mountainside Chief Financial Officer and Mayor and Municipal Clerk. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell said notes and any renewals thereof from time to time.
7. That said Special Emergency Notes may be issued to address the cash flow and appropriation needs related to the deferred charge in compliance with the provisions of P.L. 2020, c.74.
8. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 133-2020

WHEREAS, the DPW Committee has recommended a \$2,000 yearly stipend for any DPW Laborer holding a valid CDL Driver's License.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this compensation becomes effective on January 1, 2021.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

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

RESOLUTION 134-2020

WHEREAS, our former Mayor, Bruce Geiger, passed away on November 13, 2020 at age 91; and

WHEREAS, Bruce spend most of those 91 years living in Mountainside and working to ensure that our town would reflect the values of integrity, charity, good cheer, civic responsibility and community service that he cherished, and by which he lived his life; and

WHEREAS, to those ends Bruce was a volunteer Fireman and the Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department for many years; and

WHEREAS, to those ends Bruce served as a member of the Borough Council from 1972 to 1980, during which period he chaired virtually every Council Committee and was repeatedly elected to be President of the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, to those ends Bruce served as our Mayor from 1984 to 1987; and

WHEREAS, our town has been so much the better in so many ways for Bruce's presence in our midst.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the current members of the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, as Bruce Geiger's successors these many years after he served in our Borough Government, look back with gratitude to Mayor Bruce Geiger for helping to shape a Municipal Government for our town that we were inspired to join, and whose values we are determined to continue; and that we extend our condolences to Bruce's widow, Ronnie, and to the rest of his family.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

ORDINANCES: First Reading (Introduction)

**ORDINANCE 1287-2020
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION N.J.S 40A:4-53,
COVID -19 SPECIAL EMERGENCY**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(m) (Ch.144, P.L. 1965 as amended, including Ch. 46, P.L. 2010 and P.L. 2020 c.74) the sum of \$220,902.60 is hereby appropriated for COVID-19 affected revenue losses and shall be deemed a special emergency appropriation as defined and provided for in N. J.S. 40A:4-53 and 40A:4-55.

The amount to finance the appropriation shall be provided for in succeeding annual budgets beginning in 2022 by inclusion of at least 1/5 of the amount authorized pursuant to this act (N.J.S.40A:4-55).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect at the time and manner provided by law.

It was moved by Councilwoman Andre and seconded by Councilman Messler that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in full for a public hearing on December 15, 2020.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

First Reading (Introduction)

ORDINANCE 1288-2020

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND A NEW PUMPER FIRE TRUCK, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$963,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Mountainside, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Borough of Mountainside, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") is hereby authorized to acquire new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and a new pumper fire truck, including original apparatus and equipment, in, by and for said Borough, as more particularly described in Section 4 hereof. The cost of the improvements includes all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purposes"), the respective amounts of money hereinafter stated as the appropriation for said respective purposes. Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the making of such improvements is not a current expense of said Borough.

Section 4. The several purposes hereby authorized for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued are set forth in the following "Schedule of Improvements, Purposes and Amounts" which schedule also shows (1) the amount of the appropriation and the estimated cost of each such purpose, and (2) the amount of each sum which is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance such purposes, and (3) the estimated maximum amount of

bonds and notes to be issued for each such purpose, and (4) the period of usefulness of each such purpose, according to its reasonable life, computed from the date of said bonds:

SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS, PURPOSES AND AMOUNTS

A. Acquisition of a new pumper fire truck, including original apparatus and equipment.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$887,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 42,380
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$844,620
Period of Usefulness	10 years

B. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery for the use of the Fire Department consisting of (i) a vehicle exhaust venting system and (ii) a turnout gear washer/dryer.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 76,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 3,620
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 72,380
Period of Usefulness	15 years

Aggregate Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$963,000
Aggregate Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 46,000
Aggregate Amount of Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$917,000

Section 5. The cost of such purposes, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$10,618 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purposes, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law").

Section 6. It is hereby determined and stated that moneys exceeding \$46,000, appropriated for down payments on capital improvements or for the capital improvement fund in budgets heretofore adopted for said Borough, are now available to finance said purposes. The sum of \$46,000 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purposes.

Section 7. To finance said purposes, bonds of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$917,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 8. To finance said purposes, bond anticipation notes of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$917,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 9. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Mayor and by a financial officer and shall be under the seal of said Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk or Deputy Borough Clerk. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the Chief Financial Officer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 10. It is hereby determined and declared that the average period of usefulness of said purposes, according to their reasonable lives, taking into consideration the respective amounts of bonds or notes authorized for said purposes, is a period of 10.39 years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 11. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk of said Borough, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said Borough, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$917,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 12. Any funds received from private parties, the County of Union, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purposes, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purposes, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purposes shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 13. The Borough intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 of this bond ordinance. If the Borough incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the Borough hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 14. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 15. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 16. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

It was moved by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Messler that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in full for a public hearing on December 15, 2020.

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

MOTION:

A motion to approve the following COVID-Safe Community Pledge was unanimously approved.

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside New Jersey offers this COVID-Safe Community Pledge (“The Pledge”) as a proposal to the people, institutions, businesses, and visitors to Mountainside to encourage shared community awareness and actions to protect each other.

In the coming days, the Board of Health will be reaching out to potential partners within our community to support and, as fitting, amend and/or expand The Pledge and its impact.

Why might The Pledge be useful, and why are we proposing it now? Our residents have done a great job at wearing masks, congregating outside rather than inside, keeping their distance from each other, maintaining their personal hygiene (handwashing) and staying at home if sick. Nonetheless, COVID-19 cases are increasing across New Jersey and the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 continues to circulate in our community.

All of us have heard of ‘COVID-fatigue’, and many of us are undoubtedly experiencing it. The Council hopes that a community effort around The Pledge will increase and/or reestablish the awareness that we’re all in this together and lessen that fatigue through solidarity.

With rising numbers of cases, it is vital that we work together as a community and each do EVERYTHING we can to prevent the spread.

We all want things to be “normal” again, but COVID-19 is still a threat, so when one of us engages in high risk activity, we make it less safe for everyone else. This is why it is so important for all of us to continue to follow COVID-19 safe practices.

The Pledge

The Mountainside COVID-Safe Pledge affirms the following:

We pledge to

- Value the health of others as well as our own health as we go about our essential activities, such as necessary healthcare, schooling, work, and local business. In this way, these activities can be AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE for EVERYONE until there is a safe, effective and available vaccine to prevent infection, disease or serious outcomes of disease.
- Remain aware of the risk involved in the activities we engage in and understand that the risks we take do not only affect ourselves, but also affect our family, friends, teachers, businesses and other members of our community.
- Follow – with support from the Municipality and institutions and individuals within -to the best of our ability national, state and local public health guidance related to COVID-19.

- If necessary, quarantine if exposed, or if returning from travel in an area with high levels of the virus as designated by the State of New Jersey.
- Staying home – isolating - if we become ill with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or while waiting for a COVID test result until cleared to go out.
- Getting tested if having signs and symptoms consistent with COVID OR having been in close contact with someone with COVID.
- Wearing a mask/face-covering over both nose and mouth AT ALL TIMES when out and may be within 6 feet of others who are not members of our household.
- Practicing social distancing at all times when outside of our home.
- Cooperating honestly and openly with contact tracing to protect the health and safety of others in the community.
- Being respectful of others in our community and committing to COVID-safe etiquette in the community.

These actions, if committed to and followed by the large majority of our community, will have a measurable effect of decreasing exposure, infection, disease, disability....and death. While we cannot change the virus, we can and must change our behaviors to lessen its impact on ourselves and others.

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 17th day of November 2020, 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 \$187,554.19 (Copy of bill list attached).

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Pacifico, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Andre wished everyone a Happy Thanksgivings.

Councilwoman Pacifico announced upcoming events.

Councilman Turner welcomed Kim Moriak to her new full-time status.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kenny Ilgavizis, 273 Old Tote Road, president of the Mountainside Active Retirees Club, spoke highly of Kim Moriak and expressed how she's done more than former Senior Citizen Coordinators.

Hearing no one else wishing to speak, this section was closed to the public.

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, 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 8:24 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:43 P.M.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilman Messler, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk