WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 1, 2019

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 7:31 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Messler, Councilman Mortimer, Councilwoman Pater, Council President Turner, Administrator Atkins and Attorney Post. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Recreation Director Frank Masella, Borough Engineer Mike Disko and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi.

Discussion was held regarding proposed gas main projects by Elizabethtown Gas Company. Elizabethtown Representative David Kalis spoke about three upgrade projects in Mountainside: Mountain Avenue and Parkway, Globe Avenue and Route 22 East, Birch Hill Road and Knollwood Road. The Council had concerns regarding curb to curb restoration and utility projects superseding the borough’s road repaving program. Borough Engineer Mike Disko recommends granting permission for the Mountain Avenue project and possibly the Globe Avenue project if the main is behind the curb. Further negotiations are required for the Birch Hill Road project. A meeting was suggested to include borough officials and utility company representatives to discuss upcoming projects to coordinate the restoration of those roads.

Discussion was held regarding the borough’s road repaving program. Borough Engineer Mike Disko highlighted the proposed 2020 road project list and road rated map. The proposed roads are analyzed and funds are appropriated during the budget process to determine exactly which roads will be paved next year.

Discussion was held regarding a road opening permit request for 1062 Sunny View Road. The developer converted the home from oil to natural gas. PSE&G needs to connect to the main gas line by opening the road which has a moratorium set to expire in April 2020. The Council unanimously approved the road opening permit request.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the Community Development Block Grant 46 which helps to fund the Senior Citizens Social Services Program. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 15, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding the Governor’s best practices inventory questionnaire. The inventory is designed to provide standards by which local government officials can assess how we are conducting business as compared to other towns to find cost effective ways of providing services. Municipalities need to meet an established percentage of the checklist items to receive some or all of their state aid payment. The borough scored 43 yes answers, entitling Mountainside to 100% of the allotted aid.

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

RESOLUTION 110-2019

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that authorization is granted for the Finance Officer to issue a check in the amount of $500 to the Deerfield School PTO as a donation in support of the PTO Fall Festival to be held on October 19, 2019 at Deerfield School.

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Mortimer, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize a tax overpayment and a complete 100% veteran exemption. The proper resolution will be prepared for the October 15, 2019 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding recreation refunds. Recreation Director Frank Masella recommends issuing refunds due to cancellations and an equipment reimbursement. The Council approved the refund requests. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 15, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding several appointments. The specific positions are as follows: Alexandra Harris to be appointed as Probationary Police Officer, Janice Sileo as Crossing Guard and Thomas Atkins as Municipal Housing Liaison. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the October 15, 2019 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding management practices for recreation basketball teams. Recreation Committee will follow up after their review.

Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from Mountainside Education Foundation for a 50/50 on premise draw raffle. The application is in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve this license will take place at the October 15, 2019 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding updating the salary ordinance. Revisions are required to clarify or add positions and increase ranges. The proper ordinance will be introduced at the meeting of October 15, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming borough revaluation. The inspections are scheduled to begin next week and the streets will be posted on social media. Anyone with concerns regarding the inspector's credentials should contact the police department.

Discussion was held regarding aerial mosquito spraying in Mountainside on October 3, 2019. The letter from Union County and the streets being effected will be posted on social media.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Mortimer and seconded by Councilman Turner:

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 1st day of October 2019, 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 $118,912.88. (Copy of bill list attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Mortimer, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

A. Almeida, 237 South Fork Road, questioned if the 100% veteran exemption applies when the house is leased or sold. Veteran exemptions are certified annually.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mortimer 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 litigation, personnel and contracts 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 8:26 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:59 P.M.

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

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk