

**WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 5, 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 7:33 PM via Zoom.

PRESENT: Mayor 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, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Recreation Director Frank Masella, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi.

PROCLAMATION:

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, October 6, 2021 has been designated School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, Our School Crossing Guards provide an invaluable service in helping to ensure the safe passage of our youngest, most vulnerable pedestrians – children walking between home and school; and

WHEREAS, School Crossing Guards typically serve with a dedication that discounts the rigors of harsh weather, split shifts, and heavy traffic; and

WHEREAS, School Crossing Guards have served our community and helped to drive down the rates of young pedestrian deaths and injuries in Mountainside, while traffic volume has increased; and

WHEREAS, School Crossing Guards help reinforce in the minds of the young people they assist the importance of traffic hazard recognition and safe street crossing behavior.

WHEREAS, in honor of School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, it is appropriate to recognize the following Mountainside crossing guards for the services they provide to our community:

Mario Magliacano
Patricia Salvato
Janice Sileo
Robert C. Vargo

THEREFORE, I, Paul N. Mirabelli, Mayor of the Borough of Mountainside do hereby proclaim October 6, 2021 as SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION DAY.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the Community Development Block Grant 48 which helps to fund the Senior Citizens Social Services Program specifically, the Senior Coordinator and Van Drivers salaries. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. Recreation Director Frank Masella recommends issuing refunds due to cancellations. The Council approved the refund request. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding the renewal of a shared services agreement with Union County for EMS Dispatch Services. This agreement allows the borough to turn over medical dispatching to the County which requires a higher level of training with yearly certification. These requirements would limit the borough's number of desk officers. Council approved the renewal and the proper resolution will be prepared for the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Kristine Moran as PT Administrative Assistant in the Police Department. Kristine Moran replaces a former employee. The proper resolution will be prepared for the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the tradition of closing Old Tote Road for Halloween festivities. Some residents are against closing Old Tote Road for trick or treating. The Council agreed not to close the street and encouraged residents to follow traditional door to door trick or treating throughout the community.

Discussion was held a donation for the PTO Trunk or Treat on October 29, 2021. The Council agreed to donate \$500 in support of this fun community event. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a 2022 Ford Utility Interceptor for the police department. Due to a supply issue, it has become extremely difficult to obtain new vehicles. A new vehicle is 20 weeks out for delivery and the Council agreed two additional vehicles should be purchased at this time since the funds have been allotted in the budget and demand is so high. These vehicles are replacements for high mileage cars in the fleet. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding the traffic light at WR Tracy Drive. Councilwoman Pater was notified by a resident that this intersection could be potentially dangerous situation. Upon notification, some research was conducted by the Police Chief and his opinion was that no action should be taken. There have not been excessive or serious accidents at the intersection and during snow and icy conditions the County closes the road. Councilman Matejek suggested using caution in that area and addressing some overgrown shrubbery that could possibly improve visibility. DPW Director DeAnna will observe the area and take any necessary action.

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 5 "no" answers, entitling Mountainside to 100% of the allotted aid. Some of the questions discussed were personnel procedures, cybersecurity, and an anti-nepotism ordinance.

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 5th day of October 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 \$199,959.01 (Copy of bill list attached)

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Andre invited residents to Spooky Trails.

Councilwoman Pater announced upcoming events.

Councilman Messler invited residents to participate in Clean Communities Day and the Electronic Recycling Event.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilman Messler 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 contracts, litigation and 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 8:02 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:45 P.M.

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

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk