WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 7, 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 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Council President Andre (via phone), Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Beere. Also present were Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi and Senior Citizen Coordinator Kim Moriak.

Discussion was held regarding naming a new road at the 350 Summit Road subdivision. Due to a subdivision of property at 350 Summit Road a new street was constructed and needs to be named. The Council traditionally names streets after Fallen Veterans. Sergio Pereira from Pombal Builders would like to submit recommended names provided by the seller of the property. Mr. Pereira will provide the names in writing for Council’s approval.

Discussion was held regarding the Borough of Mountainside participating in the Union County Leaf Disposal Program. Mountainside agreed to deliver leaves to the Conservation Center at a higher rate of $4/yard-loose and $6/yard-compacted. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 21, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize tax overpayment refunds due to duplicate payments and a county tax board judgement. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 21, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding amending the soil moving ordinance. A soil moving permit requires an escrow deposit determined by the Engineer for services rendered. The escrow deposit is usually $250 and mostly all the funds are absorbed by the borough. A recommendation to change the escrow deposit to a fee would eliminate the tedious process of depositing and refunding escrow funds. The proper ordinance will be prepared for the meeting of September 21, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The building department requested two permit refunds, one for a road opening and the other for a duplicate CCO payment. The recreation department would also like to refund two pool memberships and a class cancellation. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the September 21, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the current recycling contract with F. Basso Jr. Rubbish Removal, Inc. The Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna recommends extending the contract for one year. The contractor agreed to an annual cost of $180,000 effective January 26, 2022 through January 25, 2023. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 21, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a Chapter 159 resolution to include a special item of revenue into the 2021 municipal budget for SGY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant for $50,950.00. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 21, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding Operation Well Check. Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak presented details of the program utilized in Bergen County. Compromised Seniors can sign up for a wellness check through Union County's first alert system. The Senior determines a preferred time of the day to be called and when the participant cannot be contacted, it will call the emergency contact. The contact will determine if a home visit may be required. The Council was open to the idea and requested feedback from other program providers.

Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of receivable balances that exist in the records of the borough since these appropriations cannot be spent and/or collected. The balances come from the Municipal Alliance Grant in the amount of $9,524.99, UC Cares Act for $229.70 and UC Preservation Grant (Hetfield House) for $556.99. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 21, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding renewal of a shared services agreement with the Board of Education for a Class II SLEO. The agreement provides for a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II to the Mountainside School District. The Police Chief recommends an hourly increase from $30 to $35. The BOE will consider the request at an upcoming meeting. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 21, 2021.

Beautiful Mountainside provided a sketch of a proposed landscaping project at the Borough Hall marquee for Council's approval. More details to follow.

A resolution will be presented at the next meeting memorializing the passing of former Sergeant Jacob Yerich.

Mayor Mirabelli provided a COVID-19 update.

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 7th day of September 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 $116,866.92. (Copy of bill list attached)

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Messler announced the final cost for the paper recycling event.

Councilwoman Pater highlighted upcoming Restoration Committee events.

Councilwoman Andre thanked our first responders for their help during Hurricane Ida.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Hearing no one wishing to speak, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pater, 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 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 8:06 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 9:07 P.M.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Pacifico and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk