

**WORK SESSION MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2023**

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 7:37 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilwoman Pater, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Captain Michael Jackson, Recreation Director Frank Masella, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak, OEM Coordinator Keith Turner and Engineer Mike Disko. Council President Messler and Councilwoman Pacifico were absent.

Discussion was held regarding a road opening permit request for 373 Creek Bed Road. Homeowner Kenneth Lawrence explained the need to repair the water main connection which is causing frequent sewer back-ups. The Borough Engineer concurred that there did not seem to be another solution to this problem.

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

**RESOLUTION 55-2023**

WHEREAS, Kenneth Lawrence has applied to the Borough for a Road Opening Permit at premises known as 373 Creek Bed Road, Mountainside, N.J.; and

WHEREAS, such permit may be necessary in order to repair a compromised water main connection to alleviate constant sewer back-up issues; and

WHEREAS, having considered the applicant's request to permit a road opening permit to an emergency situation, the Borough Council is inclined to grant the application and permit the resident to proceed as he has requested; and

WHEREAS, any repairs that may be required shall be in accordance with the instruction of our Borough Engineer Mike Disko.

Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Pater. Nays: 0

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Discussion was held regarding the introduction of the 2023 municipal budget. The municipal budget increase is \$177,037.55 which equates to \$42.92 for an average assessed home. The Mayor summarized the proposed increases, decreases and anticipated revenues. The budget introduction is scheduled for the April 18, 2023 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to purchase gift checks for Deerfield School Graduation Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Council approved two gift checks in the amount of \$300 and \$200. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 18, 2023.

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Discussion was held regarding the Memorial Day Parade donation. A ceremony will take place followed by the parade. The Council will donate \$500 for those activities. The proper resolution will be prepared for the April 18, 2023 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to auction surplus property. A 2019 Ford Explorer, 2008 Ford F450 Truck, landscaping equipment, snow removal equipment, gym equipment and chairs which are no longer useful to the borough and should be auctioned. The council approved the sale of surplus property and the resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 18, 2023.

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Discussion was held regarding authorization to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Human Services Division of Planning for a Municipal Drug Alliance Grant. The grant funds such programs as project graduation, 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance, peer leadership and DARE. Another grant agreement was authorized for a DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant to fund anti-drug programs. The proper resolutions authorizing the grant agreements will be prepared for the April 18, 2023 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding bond ordinances to fund capital improvement projects and various public improvements. The 2023 capital projects include desktop replacements, remodeling shift commander's office, upgrading intercom system, bus shelter renovations and various street signs, traffic signals, light poles and electronic signs. A fully funded bond ordinance will authorize such projects. The introduction of another bond ordinance is necessary to fund the resurfacing of roads, sewer/drainage improvements and a building generator. The proper bond ordinances will be prepared for the meeting of April 18, 2023.

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Discussion was held regarding the appointment of the Assistant Pool Manager. It was recommended by Recreation Director Frank Masella that Alanna Moriak, a former front desk attendant and summer intern be appointed to the management staff. The proper appointing resolution will be prepared for the meeting of April 18, 2023.

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Discussion was held regarding a request from the Elks Club for a license fee waiver. The Elks Club annual licensing fees total \$275 for music machine/non-food, sign and food handler. They are a non-profit organization supporting the community youth programs and veterans. The Council agreed to waive the licensing fees.

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Discussion was held regarding support for the Distracted Driving 2023 Crackdown. This is a local and national campaign in April to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving. The police have been proactive by issuing violations. The proper resolution will be prepared for the April 18, 2023 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding SarahCare's emergency assistance plan. They are requesting the use of the Mountainside community/court room in the case of an emergency evacuation at their facility located at 1115 Globe Avenue. The participants would be bused to Borough Hall until the drivers can bring them all home. OEM Coordinator Keith Turner expressed the need to revise planning board ordinances to require backup generators at medical and day care type facilities. The Mayor advised key officials to draft a proposed ordinance to submit to the planning board.

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Discussion was held regarding the approval to appoint Rocco Menoni and Szabolcs Biro as new Volunteer Firefighters. Fire Chief Peter Esemplare recommends the appointments and the background check for Szabolcs Biro has cleared while Rocco Menoni is pending due this week. A motion for approval will take place at the meeting of April 18, 2023 meeting.

**BILLS & CLAIMS:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek:

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023, 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 \$155,644.77 (Copy of bill list attached.)

Roll Call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Matejek, Pater. Nays: 0  
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**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Engineer Mike Disko provided an update on the water issue on Old Tote Road. The repair was made within 17 days and the road should be paved in several months. The trenches are filled temporarily and will later be top soiled and seeded.  
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

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 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 8:20 P.M.  
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The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 P.M.  
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Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk