

**WORK SESSION MEETING
MAY 6, 2025**

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 7:32 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Council President Pacifico (by phone), Councilman Rinaldo, Councilwoman Wass, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were CFO Justyna Zagorska-Diaz, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak, DPW Director Matthew DeAnna, Engineer Mike Disko, and Recreation Director Frank Masella. Councilman Van Deusen was absent.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to issue estimated tax bills. The Tax Collector recommends issuing estimated bills since the county tax rate has not been determined and to continue meeting our financial obligations. The Council agreed and the proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department appointments. The Police Committee recommend the appointment of Christopher Jackson as a Communication Officer. The Recreation Committee recommend the appointment of summer staff. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the resignation of the Tax Assessing Secretary effective April 4, 2025. This change requires a salary adjustment. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the creek erosion issue on Charles Street. Borough Engineer Mike Disko explained the bank stabilization project could cost approximately \$277,404 up to \$339,416. The permit and approval process will take several months and work could commence next year. He highlighted the types of structural stabilizations available and possibly applying for less footage area. The Council agreed that this project was necessary.

Discussion was held regarding a State Tax Court Judgement for Block 5.20 Lot 25. The proper resolution to process the tax judgement will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a fully funded ordinance for the water pit project at the pool. The capital improvement project is estimated to cost approximately \$35,000. Once the ordinance is adopted the improvements can commence. The proper ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the review of the 2024 annual audit. It is the sixteenth consecutive year in which the financial statements had been approved by the auditors without any comments

or recommendations. The proper resolutions regarding the 2024 annual audit will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding amending the municipal alliance grant resolution. The verbiage needs to be changed in order for the county to approve the resolution. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The building department requested two separate refunds due to permits being charged twice in error. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding entering into a professional services contract. The library roof project requires an architectural engineer. Two quotes were received and it was recommended to go with the lowest quote from Heintz & Fiore at a cost of \$46,500. A fully funded ordinance must be passed in order to move forward with the roof project. The proper resolution and ordinance will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the passing of Andrew Adornato. The Council plans to present the family with a proclamation. Andrew served on the Library Board and will need to be replaced. Councilwoman Wass will check if Diane Roman is interested.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 6th day of May 2025, 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 \$96,089.07 (Copy of bill list attached.)

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Wass. Nays: 0

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Rinaldo, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk