WORK SESSION
MARCH 2, 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, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Borough Engineer Mike Disko, Recreation Director Frank Masella and CFO Jill Goode.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed Girl Scout (Troop 40962) Bronze Award Project. The Troop identified the issue of increased pedestrian safety around Deerfield School. They observed cars speeding on Central Avenue and Wyoming Avenue and identified the need to purchase additional signage and rehab existing signage. Borough Officials provided the Troop with suggestions and feedback. Everyone agreed that the project was well planned and presented.

Discussion was held regarding the introduction of the 2021 municipal budget. The municipal budget will not increase and remain flat. The Mayor summarized the proposed increases, decreases and anticipated revenues. The budget introduction will be delayed until April in order to determine the impact of the 2nd round of the Cares Act
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Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to make additional appropriations to the 2021 temporary budget. Until the final 2021 municipal budget is formally adopted, temporary appropriations are made and approved by Council in order for the Borough to operate and meet their obligations. The proper resolution will be for the March 16, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of the pool management staff for the 2021 season. It was recommended by Recreation Director Frank Masella that two veteran pool managers John Tosado and Scott Laudati be re-hired including the return of James Chiariello. The proper appointing resolution will be prepared for the meeting of March 16, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a refund request from the clerk’s office. Borough Clerk Martha Lopez requested a refund to a business owner who overpaid their annual license fee. The proper resolution will be prepared for the March 16, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the 3-year municipal pool anticipation revenue average. The COVID 19 pandemic had an adverse effect on the anticipated 2020 pool fund budget therefore, the DLGS has promulgated new standards for the anticipation of future revenues. The state authorizes the use of a 3-year average for the calculation of affected revenues. A resolution will be submitted in conjunction with the budget introduction.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a Ford F450 and F350 for the DPW. The DPW Committee recommended the replacement of two 2008 trucks. They will be purchased under state and co-op pricing upon the adoption of the municipal budget.

The Administrator stated a resolution would be added to the next meeting agenda regarding a salary increase for the Recreation Director.

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 2nd day of March 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 $230,899.29 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Mirabelli informed residents that OEM has revamped their page on the borough website. The Mayor mentioned a program called Gen2Gen Helpers developed by Taylor Addis to secure vaccination appointments for senior citizens. Borough transportation is available for vaccination appointments by contacting the Senior Coordinator.

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:21 PM.

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk