

**WORK SESSION
AUGUST 6, 2024**

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 6:03 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Council President Pacifico, Councilwoman Wass, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present was Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi. Councilman Rinaldo was absent.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a resolution covenanting to comply with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and designating the \$6,355,000 Bond Anticipation Note as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation". A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of turnout gear through state contract. A grant was received for \$50,000 to purchase (4) turnout gear uniforms for the fire department volunteers. The purchase will be through Contract #T0790 Blanket#17-FLEET-00811 at a cost of \$51,623. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding two projects requiring the purchase of field lighting through Sourcewell Contract #041123-MSL. Purchases include a light pole damaged from a storm at the pony league baseball field in the amount of \$72,990 which is still pending insurance approval. The other is for lights at the pickleball/soccer field for a cost of \$110,996.00 to be paid through state grant funds. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department appointments. The Police Committee recommended the appointment of Zachery Myretetus as a Probationary Police Officer. The Administrator recommended the hiring of N'dela Costley as PT Planning Board Secretary, Jerry Eger as PT Construction Official, and Pedro Pons as PT Electrical Inspector. Council approved the recommendations. The appointing resolutions will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the Union County Community Development Block Grant Program. In order to participate in the CDBG Program, a resolution must be adopted to enter an annual cooperative agreement to cover the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The application consists of funding for the Senior Citizen Social Services Program and Elks ADA Bathroom Improvements. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding two complete disabled veteran exemptions. The disabled veterans were approved for full exemption by the state and will be entitled to a refund for tax overpayments. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding candy collection and closing Old Tote Road for Halloween. Council members agreed to volunteer for the distribution and delivery of candy to residents. They also agreed to close the road.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the 2024 Kids Recreation Trust Grant Program. The borough will apply for drainage at the Deerfield playground, crack filling and resurfacing

at the tennis courts and fence work at the borough hall softball field. The MSBL has not indicated a proposed project. The proper resolution authorizing borough officials to make application for the grant will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a Chapter 159 resolution to include special items of revenue into the 2024 municipal budget for the Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund \$16,632.21. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion regarding repealing the cat TNR ordinance was tabled. There exists an ongoing issue of feral cats on Timberline Road which needs to be resolved. The property owner is unable to trap a male cat and his 8 licensed cats have superseded a feral cat's lifespan. The Health Officer will discuss solutions to this problem with the cat owner in order to implement a plan. Councilwoman Pacifico will help assist as needed.

Discussion was held regarding NJDEP mandated tree removal and replacement regulations and NJDEP mandated storm water regulations. The borough must comply with the new regulations set forth by NJDEP and the proposed ordinances will be introduced at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding permission from Union County to hang banners for the Car Show and Restaurant Week. As well as authorization to close Mountain Avenue for the Car Show. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a donation to the Rescue Squad to sponsor the Spooky Trail event in the amount of \$500. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

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 6th day of August 2024, 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 \$324,524.49 (Copy of bill list attached).

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Wass. Nays: 0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:32 P.M.
