

**WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

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 7:31 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Council President Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Recreation Director Frank Masella and Senior Citizen Coordinator Kim Moriak. Councilman Messler was absent.

Discussion was held regarding the new DPW building. Architect Don Fiore presented sketches of the proposed building. The Council agreed that they prefer a more aesthetic facade instead of a commercial type structure. Mr. Fiore will draft some color renderings with those suggestions in mind. Once approved the firm will bid the project out.

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 rate of \$4/yard-loose and \$6/yard-compacted. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 20, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding a potential car show. The Mayor is coordinating with Gene Jannotti of the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce to bring a car show to the center of town. The Chamber will use their staff to organize the event with some Council input. They recommend hiring a DJ to provide entertainment. The date agreed upon will be May 21, 2023.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize tax overpayment refunds due to duplicate payments. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 20, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a department refund. The recreation department would like to refund a pool membership and guest passes. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting on September 20, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to advertise for bids for the recycling contract that is due to expire in January. The contract term shall be for three years with the option to renew two additional years. Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna explained the contract index rate clause. At this time, it is difficult to surmise who will bid and what the cost increase will be. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 20, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of property taxes on Block 14 Lots 15.01 and 15.03. The borough purchased the parcel to house the Levi Cory Park. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 20, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to renew membership with the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. The Council agreed to continue their membership with the JIF effective

January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. The proper resolution and agreement will be prepared for the meeting of September 20, 2022.

MOTION:

The following motion was unanimously approved:

1. Approve raffle application from Mountainside PTO for an off premise 50/50 draw raffle
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Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of a receivable balance that exist in the records of the borough and cannot be spent. The balance is from the Municipal Alliance Grant in the amount of \$125. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 20, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of a general capital appropriation balance that exist in the records of the borough and cannot be spent and/or collected. The balance comes from ordinance 1288-2020 for \$52,217.34. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 20, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a Chapter 159 resolution to include special items of revenue into the 2022 municipal budget from NJ Emergency Management Performance Grant for \$10,000 and Watts Mountainside Community Foundation for \$2,000. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of September 20, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Rescue Squad to hang a recruitment banner on Mountain Avenue. The Council approved their request and needs the County's approval as well. The proper resolution will be prepared for the September 20, 2022 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding support for bill S2562. Bill S2562 was introduced to make corrections to bill A6073 which include 1 EMT and a qualified First Responder/Driver for volunteer shifts but would retain the 2 EMT requirement if the crew was paid. This would give significant relief to volunteer ambulance squads (non-licensed). Municipalities are urged to reach out to Senator Vitale and request that bill S2562 be reviewed, approved and voted on.

Discussion was held regarding Mountainside TV. The Administrator explained the best option to replace Matt Flynn is to enter a shared services agreement with the Township of Clark. The services to be provided include business spotlights, live sports coverage, upgrades to the marque and a new HD channel. The annual costs will be \$20,000 plus any additional events.

Discussion was held regarding bill S1368 requiring businesses and multi-family rentals to register and obtain liability insurance. They should annually register the certificate of insurance on the state website. Municipalities have the option to enforce the registration requirements or allow the state to enforce it. At this time, the borough opts out of enforcing this requirement.

Discussion was held regarding an ordinance to prohibit firearms in public buildings. The borough wishes to ban the carrying of firearms within any public building owned by the Borough of Mountainside or the Mountainside Board of Education unless the person carrying the firearm is currently employed as a law enforcement officer. The proposed ordinance will be prepared for the September 20, 2022 meeting.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Pater:

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 September 2022, 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 \$215,670.86 (Copy of bill list attached)

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

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 litigation, 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 8:41 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 9:25 P.M.

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

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk