

**WORK SESSION MEETING  
MAY 2, 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 Paul Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Council President Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Attorney Beere and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak and DPW Director Matthew Deanna.

Discussion was held regarding a risk management update presented by Rich Duthie. Topics highlighted included premiums, losses, deductibles, training & loss control/prevention and other issues.

-----

Discussion was held regarding authorization to issue estimated tax bills. The Tax Collector recommends estimated bills be issued due to a delay with the state tax rate. The Council agreed and the proper resolution will be prepared for the May 16, 2023 meeting.

-----

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. A refund from recreation due to the cancellation of a camp and an escrow refund for a road opening permit requested by the building department. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the meeting of May 16, 2023.

-----

Discussion was held regarding authorization to advertise for snow & ice removal bids. The current contract will expire and it is necessary to solicit bids for the upcoming season. The specifications were modified to address the \$40,000 working capital payment that is repaid to the borough in the event that the full amount is not paid to the contractor. La Ferrara took a loss this year and moving forward would need to double labor costs. In order to make the bid advantageous, the reimbursement requirement should be eliminated. The proper resolution will be prepared for the May 16, 2023 meeting.

-----

Discussion was held regarding non-union employee compensation. The A&E Committee recommended a 4% increase retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>. DPW Foreman Wayne Jennings will receive an additional increase of \$5,000. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the meeting of May 16, 2023.

-----

Discussion was held regarding approval for Charles Blessing to join the Junior Firemen's Auxiliary Program. A recommendation was made by Chief Esemplare and the background check was cleared. A motion of approval will take place at the May 16, 2023 meeting.

-----

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Matejek and seconded by Councilman Messler.

**RESOLUTION 66-2023**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.21 may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under Cooperative Contract Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside plans to purchase new gym equipment to replace the antiquated equipment in the senior citizen gym and by utilizing the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) the Borough can receive competitive pricing, on a timely basis, without the expense and time involved in undertaking independent competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside intends to enter into a purchase contract with Fitness Lifestyles, Neptune, NJ for the acquisition of gym equipment; and

WHEREAS, the costs under contract #21/22-10 will be \$32,625.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has certified that the grant funds are available for this purchase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union State of New Jersey that the purchase of gym equipment under terms and provisions of #21/22-10 be and hereby are approved.

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

-----

Discussion was held regarding the replacement of street signs throughout the borough. The council were shown samples of reflective white large font signs with and without a black border. The council approved the bordered signs and requested the poles be painted black.

-----

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 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 \$69,225.87 (Copy of bill list attached.)

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

-----

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None

-----

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

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 personnel and 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 8:25 P.M.  
-----

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Andre and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:49 P.M.  
-----

---

Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk