

**WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 4, 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 7:35 PM.

**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, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi. Councilman Messler was absent.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the Community Development Block Grant 49 which helps to fund the Senior Citizens Social Services Program specifically, the Senior Coordinator and Van Driver salaries. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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Discussion regarding the Governor's best practices inventory questionnaire was postponed until the survey is made available.

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Discussion was held regarding a donation for the PTO Fall Festival on October 15, 2022. The Council agreed to donate \$500 in support of this fun community event. The proper resolution will be prepared for the October 18, 2022 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the purchase of one 2023 Ford Utility Interceptor for the police department under state contract at a cost of \$38,012.00. The vehicle will replace a high mileage administrative vehicle in the fleet. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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**MOTION:**

The following motion was unanimously approved:

1. Approve a raffle application from Highlander Booster Club for an on premise 50/50
  2. Approve a raffle application from HSA of Holy Trinity Interparochial School for an off premise 50/50 and on premise draw raffle
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Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a DPW Laborer. The Administrator and DPW Director recommend the appointment of Juan Flores whose background and reference checks were cleared. Mr. Flores holds a CDL license and replaces a retired employee. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a Municipal Public Defender. The current Public Defender JoAnn Neylan will retire and after interviewing three candidates her replacement will be Robert Rowbotham at an annual salary of \$3,600. The proper resolution will be prepared for the October 18, 2022 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding a proposed ordinance to set pool membership ranges. Once an ordinance establishes the membership not to exceed ranges then only an annual resolution will be required to set the season's rates. The proper ordinance will be prepared for the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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Discussion was held regarding a proposed ordinance regulating stick burning. The ordinance will not allow residents to have bonfires on their property and was recommended by the Fire Official. It also addresses the use of treated and untreated wood. The Council further discussed midnight being the cut off time for open fires. The proper ordinance will be prepared for the October 18, 2022 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding a proposed ordinance to authorize the Fire Department to bill the health insurance of victims involved in rescue services rendered during car accidents based on the FEMA rate. An outside agency would administer the process. The proper ordinance will be prepared for the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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Discussion was held regarding authorizing the CFO to accept bids for a \$5,968,000.00 bond anticipation note in order to refinance our existing bond. The CFO explained why it needs to be a 9-month BAN. The proper resolution will be prepared for the October 18, 2022 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding authorization to advertise for bids for the New DPW Garage. Architect Don Fiore has prepared the bid specs and the project can now go out to bid. The alternates for the project were announced. Council questioned a pre-fab building vs permanent structure. The costs for a new DPW Garage was concerning due to the financial burden of the required pool improvements. Mayor Mirabelli explained that this project will not adversely affect the pool renovations. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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Discussion was held regarding a donation for the PTO Truck or Treat Event. The Council agreed to donate \$500 in support of this additional community event. The proper resolution will be prepared for the October 18, 2022 meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding closing Old Tote Road for Halloween. Last year the street was not closed. The road will be closed this year for safety reasons and the event will not be advertised.

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The Mayor announced two new eagle scout proclamations and another for Tim McLaughlin for his retirement as the Brigadier General of the NJ National Guard.

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Further discussion was held regarding the ordinance to prohibit firearms in public buildings.

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**BILLS & CLAIMS:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek:

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 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 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 \$159,692.85 (Copy of bill list attached)

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

Councilwoman Pater announced upcoming events.  
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**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None  
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Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Andre, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:33 PM.

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Martha Lopez, RMC  
Borough Clerk