

WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 3, 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 7:33 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilman Rinaldo, Councilwoman Wass, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Recreation Director Frank Masella and CFO Justyna Diaz. Council President Pacifico and Councilman Van Deusen were absent.

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 next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding daily parking spots at the library lot. A \$10 fee can be charged for daily parking to be paid to police dispatch. The option to automate the parking fee will be researched at the league conference.

Discussion was held regarding donations for the PTO Fall Festival and Truck or Treat events. The Council questioned what the donations would cover. Councilman Matejek will inquire.

Discussion was held regarding an upcoming bid recommendation from the Borough Engineer for Contract 2024-4 Paving Improvements on Bayberry Lane. The Engineer will provide his recommendation before 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 Watt's Mountainside Community Foundation Grant \$4,323. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

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 \$439.63. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a 2024 Dodge Durango for the police department under state contract at a total cost of \$41,654. The vehicle will replace high mileage vehicle in the fleet. The Police Committee will meet to evaluate the current fleet. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of recreation staff and backup inspectors. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the PBA to offer a 457b (deferred compensation) plan through Empower. Attorney Post stated the plans are regulated by the DCA. The borough needs to follow the prohibition guidelines. If the management investment firm has not violated the

administrative code by soliciting the PBA to lobby for them then we will pass a resolution. The employer is the entity that solicits proposals and not the other way around.

Discussion was held regarding the pool redevelopment. The Planning Board approved the area as being in need of redevelopment. An ordinance needs to be adopted endorsing the board's approval. A bond ordinance (referendum) will be required and also to identify the company who will complete the project. The pool design was explained by the recreation director. The pool report will be sent to the newer council members. The Mayor requested this pool season's revenues.

A request was made to park buses at the pool parking lot temporarily for \$2,300. Further discussion required to determine approval.

Discussion was held regarding a resident at Arbor Terrace who will be celebrating her 100th birthday. A proclamation was requested.

Discussion was held regarding the repaving of Route 22 due to faulty pavement material.

Discussion was held regarding senior grants. The borough will apply for two grants to sponsor senior programs and a senior bus.

Discussion was held regarding Peach Tree Lane area with storm water issues. Apparently, the sump pumps are pumping mud. The sewer lines were inspected and the Engineer has not been able to determine the problem. We will meet with a hydro geologist to access the situation.

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 3rd day of September 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 \$128,796.49 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Rinaldo.

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 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 8:37 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilman Rinaldo and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk