

**WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

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 7:32 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Councilwoman Fech-Caccamo, Councilman Messler, Councilman Mortimer, Council President Turner, Administrator Debbie and Attorney Post. Also present were Police Chief Allan Attanasio, CFO Jill Goode, Recreation Director Frank Masella and Public Works Manager Ronald Romak. Councilwoman Andre was absent.

Discussion was held regarding the annual borough donation to the Governor Livingston High School Project Graduation. The proper resolution authorizing the Finance Officer to issue a check for the donation of \$300 will be prepared for the meeting of February 20, 2018.

Discussion was held regarding a request from Regency International to conduct a tent sale at 1112 Bristol Road. The business imports Christmas trees, trim and home décor and would like to liquidate a surplus of samples and discontinued product from the showroom. It was determined that there was no retail in that zone and would probably require a use variance from the Planning Board. Attorney Post will discuss it with the Planning Board and the Mayor suggested contacting the company to solicit donations to some of the borough organizations.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to amend petty cash funds by rescinding an existing fire department fund as well as increasing the recreation department petty cash fund from \$50 to \$100. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the February 20, 2018 meeting.

Discussion regarding a request from the Finance Officer to make additional appropriations to the 2018 temporary budget were put on hold until this week's budget meeting.

Discussion regarding the purchase of a 2018 Ford Escape SE for the Building Department were put on hold until this week's budget meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a Deputy Court Administrator. The interview committee recommended the appointment of Eileen Keating as the Deputy Court Administrator at an annual salary of \$47,000. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of February 20, 2018.

Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from the PTO Benjamin Franklin School. They are requesting an on premise draw raffle. The application is in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve the application will take place at the February 20, 2018 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The Finance Officer has requested refunds for police outside pay overages and the Tax Collector requested refunds for tax overpayments due to duplicate payments made at the end of the year for IRS tax purposes. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of February 20, 2018.

Discussion was held regarding renewal of the Animal Control Services Contract with Animal Control Solutions, LLC. The proposal is for a two-year contract at an annual cost of \$15,480.00. Attorney Post will review the contract and make a recommendation.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the Highway Safety Fund Grant Program. The New Jersey Department of Transportation Safety Fund Grant Program provides funds for the enforcement of traffic violations in designated stretches of state highways known as safe corridors. The Council also authorized the fire department to apply for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the meeting of February 20, 2018.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed tax deduction bill. This proposed legislation would allow residents who only paid the first two quarters of 2018 property taxes in accordance with IRS guidelines to be given a window in which to make the remaining two payments for 2018 and receive credit for it against their 2017 income.

Discussion was held regarding a request from Beechwood School for a crossing guard to direct traffic in the parking lot for one hour in the morning with all expenses paid by the school to the borough. The Police Chief was directed to explain the costs and move ahead with hiring a new crossing guard.

Discussion was held regarding Tree City and Sustainable Energy Certification. Public Works Manager explained a proclamation would be introduced in April which allows the submission of a 2019 application. Sustainable Energy is holding a webinar in a few weeks and should provide more input on the program.

Discussion was held regarding input from the Union County Traffic Advisory Board pertaining to the Borough's traffic concerns. Councilman Messler suggested involving the UC Traffic Advisory Board to help address the traffic congestion in Mountainside.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 February 2018, 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 \$1,512,921.15. (Copy of bill list attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Dierkes, Fech-Caccamo, Messler, Mortimer, Turner. Nays: 0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

JCPL Representative provided a brief update about the line workers program and new re-closure loops that allow quick power restoration during an outage.

Genevieve Cooper, Knightsbridge Road asked for an update on the Barnes Tract Development. Mayor Mirabelli stated the retail portion was eliminated and more trees would be added to the landscape. The developer's plans should be submitted in a month or so and the traffic study will soon be awarded. Ms. Cooper asked for the meeting agenda to be posted the day of the meeting. The Clerk confirmed the agenda was posted on the Mountainside website last week. It was suggested to also be posted to the Mountainside Facebook page.

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

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 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 8:12 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:26 P.M.

Discussion was held regarding correspondences from the Union County Mayor's to support their concerns regarding the composition of the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS) Board of Trustees and the dedication of legalized marijuana revenue to the pension systems. The Council expressed their support for the equally balanced composition of the PFRS Board of Trustees.

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Mortimer, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk