

**WORK SESSION
JANUARY 12, 2021**

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 7:36 P.M. via Zoom.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Council President Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Matejek, Councilman Messler, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilwoman Pater, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were CFO Jill Goode, Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Borough Engineer Mike Disko and Recreation Director Frank Masella.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of representatives to the UC Transportation Advisory Board. Council agreed to reappoint Councilman Robert Messler and Mike Disko as alternate, for a one-year term. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Fund Commissioner to the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. The Borough Administrator will be appointed for a one-year term. The proper resolution will be prepared for the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a DPW Laborer. The Administrator and DPW Director recommend the appointment of Wayne Jennings with a starting salary of \$41,000 effective January 4, 2021. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from OLL for a 50/50 off premise draw raffle. The application is in order and the proper fees have been paid. A motion to approve this license will take place at the meeting of January 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding increasing the pool membership fees for 2021. The proposed changes include a 2% increase for resident memberships and non-resident memberships. The Council agreed with the recommendation and the ordinance will be prepared for the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a fire pumper under the HGAC Buy Co-op #FA12-19. A bond ordinance for the acquisition of the fire pumper was adopted in December. The estoppel period has ended and in order to obtain a discount shall be purchased at this time. A resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 19, 2021.

Discussion was held regarding a request for a fence exemption at 315 Indian Trail. The zoning permit allowed for a 4' tall open fencing outside of the Wood Valley Road municipal right-of-way. The fencing was placed within the municipal right-of-way and the Borough Engineer advised the homeowner to remove and relocate the fence. Homeowner Scott Grau explained the reasons why he erected the fence and requested an exemption to allow the fence 10 feet from the curb instead of the required 15.5 feet. The Council will discuss further in executive session.

Discussion was held regarding the installation of rooftop solar panels. Currently, there are no zoning ordinances to address the installation of solar panels and therefore, requires approval by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Council was asked to consider amending the zoning ordinance to incorporate the installation of solar panels. Attorney Post will add solar panels to the accessory structure list to streamline the process and allow approval by the Borough Engineer. The Council requested verbiage regarding notice of tree removal. A proposed ordinance will be sent to Council and if approved introduced at the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding revisions to the stormwater control ordinance. The NJDEP has mandated revisions and updates to our stormwater control ordinance by March. The Borough Engineer Mike Disko provided a model ordinance and highlighted some of the changes. These changes will only effect new major developments such as commercial projects. The proper ordinance will be prepared for the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Discussion regarding the OEM Director's salary was tabled.

Discussion was held regarding approval to advertise for a permanent Zoning Officer. Borough officials will draft the classified ad and determine a salary with committee review.

Discussion regarding the Communications Officer position was tabled.

Discussion was held regarding the need for new radios for the fire department. Councilman Dierkes explained the issues with the current 400 system radios for instance the inability to communicate with other towns, outdated technology and a tower malfunction. The new radios (18) will allow for more effective and reliable communication. The old radios may be put to auction.

Discussion was held regarding a capital budget plan. The Mayor stated that the Finance Committee met and have a proposed capital budget plan for 2021. The plan will be presented to Council at the February meeting.

Councilman Matejek informed the public that Beechwood School has begun kindergarten registration for next year.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 12th day of January 2021, 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 \$225,796.35. (Copy of bill list attached)

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Andre, 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 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 8:20 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 9:03 P.M.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Andre and seconded by Councilman Matejek. A motion to permit a fence encroachment on the borough right-of-way located at 315 Indian Trail.

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

The request for a fence exemption was denied. The homeowner will be advised and has 30 days to rectify the violation.

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Messler, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk