

**WORK SESSION
MARCH 5, 2019**

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.

Acting Mayor Keith C. Turner called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Messler, Councilman Mortimer, Councilwoman Pater, Attorney Post and Administrator Debbie. Also present were Public Works Manager Ronald Romak, Lt. Joseph Giannuzzi, Borough Engineer Mike Disko and CFO Jill Goode. Mayor Mirabelli was absent.

Discussion was held regarding proposed Elizabethtown Gas Company upgrade work. The project would include upgrades to a portion of their underground main system in the borough impacting Beech Avenue, Cedar Avenue (at Central) and Central Avenue (Blazo to Poplar). Elizabethtown Gas Co. agreed to the Borough Engineer's restoration recommendation.

Discussion was held regarding the introduction of the 2019 municipal budget. Acting Mayor Turner highlighted the increases, decreases and revenue in the proposed budget. The municipal tax increase is 1.7% which equates to \$18.09 for a home assessed at average assessment (\$163,389). The budget will be introduced at the meeting of March 19, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding approval of a temporary capital budget. The 2019 municipal budget has not been approved therefore, the council has agreed to adopt a temporary capital budget in order to proceed with various infrastructure improvements, computer upgrades and municipal building renovations. The proper resolution will be prepared for the March 19, 2019 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from the Mountainside Restoration Committee for an off 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 meeting of March 19, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of the pool management staff for the 2019 season. It was recommended by Recreation Director Frank Masella that the veteran pool managers be re-hired. Council agreed and the proper resolution will be prepared for the March 19, 2019 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the Infrastructure & Municipal Aid Grant Program. The Council authorized the Borough Engineer to apply for the grant to fund a generator for the rescue squad building and road improvements on Partridge Run. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of March 19, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer to make additional appropriations to the 2019 temporary budget. Until the final 2019 municipal budget is formally adopted, temporary appropriations are made and approved by Council in order for the Borough to operate and meet their obligations. The proper resolution will be for the March 19, 2019 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Kim Moriak as Municipal Alliance Coordinator with a salary of \$3,600 paid by grant funding. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of March 19, 2019.

Discussion was held regarding the NJ Tree Recovery campaign. Councilman Messler urged residents to take advantage of the free seedlings to be distributed at borough hall to help replace trees that were damaged or destroyed by Superstorm Sandy.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Mortimer and seconded by Councilwoman Andre:

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 5th day of March 2019, 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 \$122,539.72 (Copy of bill list attached).

Roll Call: Andre, Dierkes, Messler, Mortimer, Pater, Turner. Nays: 0

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Carlos Gomez, 1492 Deer Path, questioned if the borough owns the creek behind Meeting House Lane. The creek retaining wall appears to be deteriorating. The Borough Engineer was asked to investigate.

Hearing no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Turner closed the meeting to the public.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Mortimer 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 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 7:51 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 8:14 P.M.

Councilman Messler praised the DPW for their snow clearing efforts.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mortimer and a second by Councilwoman Andre, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk