WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 6, 2026

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 7:34 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Council President Matejek, Councilwoman Pacifico (by phone), Councilman Rinaldo, Councilwoman Wass, Administrator Mortimer and Attorney Post. Also present were Public Works Director Matthew DeAnna, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak, CFO Justyna Diaz. Recreation Director Frank Masella, Engineer Mike Disko and Police Chief Joseph Giannuzzi. Councilman Van Deusen was absent.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for Community Development Block Grant 53, which provides funding assistance for the Senior Citizens Social Services Program. The appropriate resolution will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The Recreation Department requested refunds for participants affected by program cancellations. The Borough Engineer also requested the release of a $2,000 road opening bond for 237 Apple Tree Lane. The appropriate resolution will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding closing Old Tote Road for Halloween. Council determined the street will be closed from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding proposed updates to the salary ordinance. Salary ranges approaching their maximum limits require adjustments. The Council reviewed a copy of the salary ordinance highlighting the proposed revisions to the salary ranges. The revised ordinance will be prepared and presented for consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to purchase two 2026 Ford Interceptor vehicles for $101,530 through the Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing Program. The vehicles will replace high-mileage school vehicles currently in the Police fleet. The appropriate resolution will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of an aquatic engineer for the pool renovations. Attorney Post verbally presented a resolution to appoint Water Technologies Inc. to design the new pool project. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wass and seconded by Councilman Matejek and unanimously approved by all members present.

Discussion was held regarding settlements for reverse tax appeals. Attorney Post discussed an increase in the assessed value of 253 Sheffield Street and 1120 Globe Avenue. Resolutions approving the stipulations of settlement will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding changes to the leaf collection program. New NJDEP enforcement limits Mountainside to far less daily leaf disposal capacity than in prior years, which may extend Borough-collection from about three days to a week or longer during peak season. While DPW maximizes use of the Union County facility and may use the more expensive Nature’s Choice facility only to prevent

major backlogs. Delays could leave bags at curbs longer and make winter collection more difficult because of snow and ice.

Discussion was held regarding the NJDEP Watershed Improvement Plan. The Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) is a mandatory, three-phase municipal strategy to map storm drainage, identify pollution sources, and implement projects to mitigate flooding and enhance water quality. The process involves mapping infrastructure, assessing flood and pollution risks, and constructing green solutions. Engineer Mike Disko addressed some actionable strategies and targeted mechanisms to directly eliminate critical water impairments that would address elevated levels of fecal coliform, phosphorus, and total suspended solids. The Engineer will prioritize mechanisms that are both cost-effective and highly practical to implement.

Status updates were provided for Corner Park, Beechwood Field and the pickleball court security measures.

Discussion was held regarding an abandoned sewer pipe at 295 Bridle Path. The Borough addressed a structural issue where an abandoned sewer pipe has failed to maintain proper condition, causing a sinking depression on the property. To determine the necessary remedial measures to rectify the damage, the Engineer recommended excavating and exposing the line to perform a television camera inspection. This exploratory work will help identify the full extent of the abandoned pipe and present definitive options to possibly rectify the situation.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Wass:

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 October 2026, 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 $135,861.95 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kurt Manz, 1015 Charles Street, asked for assistance addressing a deteriorated privacy fence and the need for re-vegetation along the back of his and a neighbor's property.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Wass and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

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 personnel 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 8:40 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Wass and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

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Martha Lopez, RMC