

**WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 1, 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 Mirabelli called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

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

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize a tax overpayment refund due to a duplicate payment. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of temporary staff. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to appoint Anthony Bianchi as a new volunteer firefighter. His background check has cleared. The Fire Chief recommends the appointment. A motion to approve the new firefighter will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a raffle application from PTO Mountainside for an on premise draw raffle. A motion to approve the application will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding department refunds. The recreation department would like to refund the participants due to cancellations. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding renewal of a shared services agreement with the Board of Education for Class II SLEOs. The agreement provides for Special Law Enforcement Officers Class II at Mountainside schools during the day and for special events. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to appoint Andrew Meeks as a new volunteer firefighter. His background check has cleared. The Fire Chief recommends the appointment. A motion to approve the new firefighter will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector for a possible tax sale lien redemption at 164 Chipmunk Hill.

Discussion was held regarding a settlement for a reverse tax appeal at 1165 Globe Avenue for the 2026 taxes. A resolution approving the stipulation of settlement will be prepared for the next meeting.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

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

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 1st day of September 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 \$556,000.66 (Copy of bill list attached).

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Cathy Jakositz, 1470 Woodacres Drive, expressed her concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. Some concerns included: parking, traffic, liability, portable toilet, bleachers, game scheduling, high school team usage, and county park permits for Mountainside.

Lucinda Kimler, 1551 Long Meadow, expressed her concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. Her concerns were parking, noise complaints, and the use of county parks.

Phil Ligus, 1487 Barton Drive, expressed his support for the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. He suggested not restricting parking unless it becomes an issue and installing a portable toilet.

Irene Giameo, 1483 Barton Drive, expressed her concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. She questioned possible water drainage issues.

Michael Osborn, 236 Pembroke Road, expressed his concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. He mentioned a lack of communication about the project and impacts of the field now and in the future such as light installation. He suggested residential parking permits and asked if adult leagues/teams would be using the field.

Karl-Heinz Wagner, 938 Mountain Avenue, expressed his concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. He spoke about the availability of other fields and who was funding the project.

John Gariazzo, 1486 Barton Drive, expressed his concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. He questioned who would be using the fields and the need for a portable toilet. He asked to view the plans for the field.

Mayor Mirabelli mentioned the project has been discussed at the Board of Education, Planning Board and Council meetings.

Ryan Moore, 236 Beechwood Court, expressed his support for the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. He asked to engage the neighbors moving forward on items that can be tweaked such as fencing, trash and park access.

Rob Ross, 1550 Route 22, expressed his concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. His concerns are parking, approximate number of games, traffic, tree removal, grading and drainage.

Teresa Evanelista, 1541 Long Meadow, expressed her concerns regarding the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. She was worried about public safety.

Michaela Whelan, 295 New Providence Road, President of Mountainside FC, expressed her support for the renovation of the soccer field at Beechwood School. She explained the need for this field and approximate number of games.

Mayor Mirabelli mentioned a proposed ordinance could address prohibitions for field usage.

Borough Engineer Mike Disko provided an extensive presentation on the project and addressed all of the audiences concerns.

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilwoman Pacifico, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk