WORK SESSION
JULY 7, 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 7:31 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilman Dierkes, Council President Matejek, Councilwoman Pacifico, Councilman Rinaldo, Councilman Van Deusen, Councilwoman Wass, Attorney Post and Administrator Mortimer. Also present were CFO Justyna Zagorska-Diaz, Senior Coordinator Kim Moriak, Recreation Director Frank Masella and Engineer Mike Disko.

Discussion was held regarding a request for a road opening permit at 581 Hillside Avenue. Homeowners are weeks away from completion of their new home and the gas permit was denied due to the moratorium in effect until December 2026. The Engineer provided background on the property and how his zoning reviews indicated the moratorium in effect. Mechanisms to advise new homeowners of moratoriums during the permit process were also discussed. The Borough Engineer recommended infrared for one road patch and curb to curb for more than one patch. The Council approved a waiver to the moratorium.

Discussion was held regarding a recycling collection services complaint at Robbie Lane. Tracy Tyler from 3 Robbie Lane complained about constant missed pickups. DPW Director explained that Robbie Lane was the last street on the route and GPS reporting showed picked ups. Resident will be advised to contact us if not picked up by 2pm.

Discussion was held regarding department appointments. Seasonal hires for the pool will be provided by the Recreation Director before the next meeting. The proper appointment resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a bid recommendation from the Borough Engineer for Contract 2026-2 TV Inspection of Various Sanitary Sewers. The Engineer recommends the base bid, alternate #1 and alternate #2 be awarded to the lowest bidder Oswald Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $69,833.20. Bids for Contract 2026-3 Paving Improvements for Various Streets will also be accepted and awarded at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding entering a Cooperative Agreement with Union County for the CDBG Program. The program will allocate $14,000 senior citizen public services. The proper resolution will be prepared for next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding extending the Snow & Ice Removal contract. The contract expires soon and the Borough has the option to renew the contract for a term of two years. The contractor Robert La Ferrara Construction is willing to extend the contract for an additional two-year term ending on July 31, 2028. Attorney Post was advised to confirm the CPI increase. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding adoption of the 2026 Union County Hazard Mitigation Plan. OEM prepares a plan for flooding and fire hazardous. Once hazards are identified we would be eligible for FEMA emergency funding. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding entering into a professional services contract. The borough plans to enter into a professional services contract with River Communications for communications consulting services for the pool renovations. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a department refund. The Borough Engineer would like to release the performance bond associated with Peak Sporting Academy, located at 1235 Route 22 East. The site improvements were found to be in substantial conformance with the approved site plans. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to purchase 3M Scott Air-Paks for the fire department at a cost of $190,889.82 from the Bergen County Co-Op Contract# BC-BID-26-16. The borough will cover $170,000 and the balance from the fire department budget. The proper resolution authorizing this purchase will be prepared for the next meeting. Also mentioned was the capital items schedule no yet provided by the fire department. The Fire Committee should follow up and consider hiring a consultant to assist with management.

Discussion was held regarding amending the Library Roof Repair Contract to include Alternate #2 for $15,000. This alternate consists of the cleaning and video inspection of all roof drain lines at the Library which was thought to cost less with another vendor unfortunately, no responses or viable quotations were provided. Therefore, it is recommended to include Alternate #2 in the original bid award. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to appoint Katherine Lewis as a new Junior Auxiliary Member. Her background check has cleared. The Fire Chief recommends the appointment. A motion for approval will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding authorization to apply for the 2026 Kids Recreation Trust Grant Program. The borough will apply for the cost for the field project at Beechwood School. The Engineer stated the soil erosion plan has not been submitted and the bids are expected early August which will include removal of a garage storage unit as an alternate. The proper resolution authorizing borough officials to make application for the grant will be prepared for the next meeting. The corner park has not been approved by the County and the project will be broken up with electrical and possible quotes on the rest of the work.

Discussion was held regarding revising Resolution 81-2026 employee compensation. The resolution should indicate Frank Masella being appointed as on-site pool technician. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a Chapter 159 resolution to include special item of revenue into the 2026 municipal budget for the Recycling Tonnage Grant ($12,968.81). The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a pool renovation bond ordinance. After tomorrow's pool meeting it is likely that a bond ordinance for the cost would be introduced. The Mayor wants Council to receive the projection for the per household estimate if one of the pool options is chosen.

Discussion was held regarding data center prohibition. Mountainside does not currently have a parcel to accommodate a data center. Attorney Post will review another municipalities ordinance to advise if we should consider adopting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector for the tax sale redemption of 346 Fawn Ridge. It is requested that the Finance Officer be authorized to issue a check to the lien holder for the redemption of this tax lien due to the sale of this property. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a sewer utility billing adjustment at 1133 Mountain Avenue. A recommendation was made by the Engineer to reduce the sewer utility charges by $930.56. The proper resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

The Mayor asked the Recreation Director to follow up with the County on the outstanding Kids Grant reimbursements.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilwoman Pacifico.

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 7th day of July 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 $97,284.95 (Copy of bill list attached.)

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Rinaldo, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

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Martha Lopez, RMC