**REGULAR MEETING**
**SEPTEMBER 15, 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 7:30 P.M.

**INVOCATION:** Councilwoman Pacifico
**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon a motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Rinaldo, the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on August 18, 2026 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.

Upon a motion by Councilman Matejek and a second by Councilman Van Deusen, the minutes of the Work Session Meeting held on September 1, 2026 were approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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**PROCLAMATION:**

WHEREAS, Ruth C. Leist was born on October 3, 1926, and we proudly celebrate her 100th birthday and a century of remarkable life, faith, family, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was raised in Newark’s “Down Neck” neighborhood as the oldest of four children during the difficult years of poverty and war, experiences that shaped her strong character and deep appreciation for family; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was a proud graduate of East Side High School and a dedicated student who demonstrated exceptional academic ability, despite being unable to continue her education at the college level; and

WHEREAS, Ruth and her husband built their family home in Mountainside in 1956, where she raised four children, embraced her Catholic faith, and created countless cherished family memories; and

WHEREAS, following her husband’s passing in 1970, Ruth demonstrated extraordinary strength by working full-time at Ciba-Geigy while raising her children as a single mother, earning promotions and recognition for her outstanding work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Ruth has filled her life with family, friendships, music, travel, creativity, and community, with passions ranging from Irish heritage and the Boston Red Sox to baking, sewing, knitting, cards, and spending time by the ocean; and

WHEREAS, Ruth's greatest pride and joy are her children and grandchildren, whose accomplishments reflect the love, sacrifice, and determination she has given her family throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Ruth's unwavering faith, resilience, curiosity, and devotion to those she loves have made her an inspiration to all who know her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that October 3, 2026, be recognized as "Ruth C. Leist Day" in honor of her 100th birthday and her extraordinary life of faith, family, strength, and love.

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Rinaldo and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

**RESOLUTION 118-2026**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountainside needs to refund monies to interested parties for overpayment of current year taxes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue the following refund, for the following reason:

Duplicate payments Due to:

COTALITY
ATTN: REFUND DEPT
3001 Hackberry Rd
Irving, TX 75063

| Block | Lot | Qualifier | Amount | Property Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15.09 | 48.08 | | $3,751.43 | 206 Echo Ridge Way, Mountainside, NJ |

LERETA, LLC
ATTN: CENTRAL REFUNDS
901 Corporate Center Dr
Pomona, CA 91768

| Block | Lot | Qualifier | Amount | Property Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.12 | 15 | | $3,076.03 | 366 Rolling Rock Rd, Mountainside, NJ |

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

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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Van Deusen and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

**RESOLUTION 119-2026**

WHEREAS, the Governing body of the Borough of Mountainside is aware that Friday, September 18, 2026 has been declared as "POW/MIA Remembrance Day"; and

WHEREAS, all Americans everywhere owe a special debt of gratitude and a responsibility for remembering and honoring those who have given so much to make all of us free and secure in this, our national homeland, and a recognition day is a fitting testament and remembrance for all of us, for the sacrifices of our POW/MIA Veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that it hereby declares, Friday, September 18, 2026 as:

"POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY"

in the Borough of Mountainside and urges all citizens of the Borough of Mountainside to make a special effort to give thanks to and remember the sacrifices rendered to us by all these noble sons and daughters of America.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Rinaldo and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

**RESOLUTION 120-2026**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside that the following person recommended by the Construction Official, be and hereby is appointed as such:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tom Penn | PT Temporary Staffing – Fire Official | $50.00/hour |
| Effective: | August 26, 2026 | |

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Pacifico and seconded by Councilman Van Deusen.

**RESOLUTION 121-2026**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue the following refunds:

| Applicant | For | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Qing Li<br>225 Pembrook Road<br>Mountainside, NJ 07092 | Kids Tennis | $100.00 |
| Gabrielle Samuels<br>1537 Deer Path<br>Mountainside, NJ 07092 | Kids Tennis | $100.00 |
| Fatima Wilches<br>1277 Knollwood Road<br>Mountainside, NJ 07092 | Kids Tennis | $100.00 |

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Matejek and seconded by Councilman Rinaldo.

**RESOLUTION 122-2026**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE AND THE MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE SERVICES OF CLASS II SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, the Mountainside Board of Education and the Borough of Mountainside have agreed to enter into a Shared Service Agreement whereby the services of Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers II will be provided by the Borough of Mountainside to the Mountainside Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside as follows:

1. The Shared Service Agreement between the Borough of Mountainside and the Mountainside Board of Education for the services of Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers to be provided by the Borough of Mountainside to the Mountainside Board of Education is approved pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.

2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Borough

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately

4. A copy of this Agreement shall be filed, for informational purposes, with the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Matejek.

**RESOLUTION 123-2026**

WHEREAS, there exist a need for Fall Staff in the Recreation Department that will operate from September 1st to December 31st ; and

WHEREAS, Recreation Director Frank Masella and the Recreation Committee has recommended that the following individuals be appointed to said positions:

| Name | Position | Wage | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Start Date September 1st | | |
| **Sanchez-Grindlinger, Samantha** | Soccer Instructor | $60.00 | Per Hour |
| Silva, Nicholas | Soccer Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Dolan, Bryan | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Gonzalez, Jordan | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Esler, Patti | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Melo, Ferdinando | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Melo, Gabriel | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Gillo, Sarah | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |
| Gao, Nathan | Instructor | $40.00 | Per Hour |

WHEREAS, the above individuals shall be appointed as temporary employees for the 2026 fall season; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that the recommendation of Recreation Director Frank Masella and the Recreation Committee be and hereby are accepted and approved pending background checks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salary for the above positions shall be set forth in the borough's salary ordinance.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Rinaldo and seconded by Councilman Van Deusen.

**RESOLUTION 124-2026**

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 70-2026

WHEREAS the Borough Council on May 19, 2026 passed Resolution 70-2026 approving the settlement of an appeal initiated by the Borough against taxpayer Vericon Construction Company LLC for its real property assessment for 2025; and

WHEREAS such settlement also included a settlement of taxpayer Vericon Construction Company LLC's real property assessment for 2026; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend Resolution 70-2026 to approve such settlement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Resolution 70-2026 be and the same is hereby amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

> 1. That the Stipulation of Settlement between Mountainside Borough, Plaintiff and Vericon Construction Company LLC, Defendant, whereby, inter alia, the assessment for the property known as 1165 Globe Avenue, Mountainside, as shown on the Borough Tax Map as Block 23, Lot 23 is set for 2026 at $413,300 for the land and $2,285,500 for the improvement, for a total assessment of $2,698,800, be and the same is hereby approved.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0.
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**ORDINANCE:** Second Reading (Public Hearing)

**ORDINANCE 1360-2026**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($250,000.00) FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR BUILDING AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

SECTION 1. The Borough of Mountainside is hereby authorized to undertake building and grounds improvements.

SECTION 2. The sum of $250,000 is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund for the improvements authorized herein. The project shall be fully funded from the Capital Improvement Fund.

SECTION 3. In the event the Borough of Mountainside receives any federal, state, county, or other grant funding for the improvements authorized herein, such grant proceeds shall be used to reimburse the funds appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication as required by law.

John Trupchak, 295 Bridle Path, questioned what improvements are being funded.

Mayor stated improvements to Beechwood soccer field.

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

It was moved by Councilman Matejek and seconded by Councilman Van Deusen that this ordinance be passed on second and final reading and advertised by title only.

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

The following motions were unanimously approved by the Council.

1. Authorization to appoint Anthony Bianchi and Andrew Meeks as Volunteer Firefighters

2. Raffle application from PTO Mountainside for an on premise draw raffle
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**BILLS & CLAIMS:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Dierkes and seconded by Councilman Van Deusen.

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 15th 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 $233,819.55 (Copy of bill list attached).

Roll Call: Ayes: Dierkes, Matejek, Pacifico, Rinaldo, Van Deusen. Nays: 0
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**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Matejek reminded residents to drive safely and announced the Halloween candy drive.

Mayor Mirabelli announced upcoming events.
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**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**:

Alyssa Rovito, 1507 Fox Trail, inquired about the pool renovation project costs and bonding options. She suggested a pool project timeline be posted on the borough website.

The Mayor provided a timeline on the pool renovations.

John Trupchak, 295 Bridle Path, complained about an easement on his property. He also questioned the affordable housing plan, the field behind OLL Church and a rendition of the corner park.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Matejek and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

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Martha Lopez, RMC
Borough Clerk