

**WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 2, 2014**

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 8:05 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Mirabelli, Councilwoman Andre, Councilman Dierkes, Councilman Lane, Councilman Messler, Councilman Mortimer, Council President Turner, Administrator Debbie and Attorney John Post. Also present were Recreation Director Frank Masella, Public Works Manager Ronald Romak, CFO Jill Goode, and Acting Chief Allan Attanasio.

Discussion was held regarding a proposal from the Mountainside Girl Scouts to implement a Mountainside Adopt-a-Fire-Hydrant Program. The goal of the program is to have the community adopt the 120 fire hydrants in town. Those who adopt will be asked to shovel out, maintain, and report damaged or blocked hydrants. The Girl Scouts will seek funding through the Watts Foundation. In the event that their request is denied, the Borough will help fund the program.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Lane and seconded by Councilman Mortimer.

RESOLUTION 106-2014

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside formally approves the implementation of Adopt-a-Fire-Hydrant Program by the Mountainside Girl Scout Troop 40389; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside will help fund the program in the event that grant funding is not available.

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Lane, Messler, Mortimer, Turner. Nays: 0.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for end of year budget transfers. In accordance with State Statute, transfers can be made within certain budget appropriations during the last two months of the fiscal year. It is requested that certain transfers be made within the 2014 municipal budget specifically to the police (\$5,000) and fire (\$3,000) departments. The proper budget transfer resolution will be prepared for the December 16, 2014 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Finance Officer for a temporary debt budget. A debt payment is due on January 1, 2015. There will not be funds available to pay the last debt payment until after the Reorganization Meeting on January 6th unless the Governing Body authorizes a Temporary Debt Budget in the amount of \$46,128.89. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of December 16, 2014.

Discussion was held regarding the canceling of certain tax account balances. In accordance with State Statute, balances in the amount of \$5.00 or less, whether owed to the Borough or owed by the Borough, may be cancelled with the authorization of the Governing Body. The proper resolution to authorize the cancellation of \$5.00 balances on various tax and sewer accounts will be prepared for the December 16, 2014 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Tax Collector to authorize refunds for tax overpayments due to duplicate payments and veteran deduction allowance. The proper resolution will be prepared for the meeting of December 16, 2014.

Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of the general capital appropriation balance for Ordinance #1222-2014 - Boiler Repairs at Borough Hall. The balance to be cancelled is \$24,758.58. Another capital outlay account cancellation could be required to help fund a leak repair to the baby pool. The proper resolution will be prepared for the December 16, 2014 meeting.

Discussion regarding an amendment to Resolution 13-2014 – Professional Service Contract for Engineering was moved to executive session.

Discussion was held regarding numerous recreation department refunds due to basketball program cancellations. The building department is also requesting refunds for several temporary sign permits. The proper resolutions will be prepared for the December 16, 2014 meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request from Fire Chief Watson to fund car repairs and the purchase of fire boots. Councilman Lane explained that the fire department has exceeded its budget by \$3,000. The repairs to the Chief's car amount to \$3,000 and the boots will cost approximately \$1,500. Administrator Debbie recommends a vehicle transfer from the police department to replace the Chief's car. The Council agreed to fund the purchase of the fire boots and to

increase the budget transfer by \$1,500. Councilman Lane will attend a Fire Committee meeting in January to address the 2015 budget.

Discussion was held regarding raffle applications from the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey. They are requesting an on premise draw raffle and 50/50 off premise draw raffle. The applications are in order and the proper fees have been paid. Action to approve the raffle licenses will take place at the meeting of December 16, 2014.

BILLS & CLAIMS:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Mortimer and seconded by Councilman Messler:

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 2nd day of December 2014, 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 \$124,880.71. (Copy of bill list attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Andre, Dierkes, Lane, Messler, Mortimer, Turner. Nays: 0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Manny Arango, 478 Mary Ellen Way, again spoke on behalf of his neighbors regarding the hazardous conditions on Mary Ellen Lane which allegedly has not been properly maintained by the builder. Borough Attorney Post explained that the builder was notified and is voluntarily willing to repair the street. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Upon motion by Councilman Dierkes and a second by Councilman Mortimer, the following resolution to adjourn to closed session was unanimously adopted:

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 and litigation 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 8:41 P.M.

The meeting was recalled to public session at 9:06 P.M.

Upon motion by Councilman Mortimer and a second by Councilman Dierkes, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Lopez, Borough Clerk