

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 6, 2014 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The Borough Clerk read the following statement:

Adequate notice of this meeting as defined by the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided by:

1. Posting a notice of said meeting in the space provided for such announcements at the Borough Hall on January 10, 2014.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 15, 2014 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 10, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys (arrived at 7:36,) Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Agenda Meeting of February 6, 2014
- Regular Meeting of February 20, 2014

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Minutes was made by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Absent: Councilman Laureys

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

- William Koster Jr. – 4 Dogwood Rd. – He wished to discuss the events regarding a decision on a fire truck. He was not pleased with the discussion of the fire truck at last month's meeting. He was concerned that procedures were not followed as discussed. It was brought up that proper protocol according to the borough ordinance was not followed when the truck was first introduced. He was Fire Chief at the time and assured everyone that protocol was followed. He is disappointed at the way the decision was made and voted on at last month's

meeting. He did not think this was the way the same group was going when they spoke up at the safety meeting.

The Mayor and Councilman Hathaway held a discussion with Mr. Koster to clarify what the issues were. It seemed like there was a disconnect regarding which groups should be making decisions regarding the fire truck.

- Patrick Kunkel – 13 Church St. – Mr. Kunkel was very disappointed and shocked to find out that the vote for the fire truck was taken under the privilege of the floor. He feels it should have been a line item on the agenda so the public would have been aware this was being voted on. He found this very insulting after the 100's of hours spent and places travelled to put the proposal for the Quint together.

Councilwoman Butler wanted to take the blame for the vote that occurred and that it wasn't formally on the agenda. However, she felt the vote was necessary and the town could not purchase this truck.

The Mayor did not feel any blame should be taken by the Council as they did their job. He requested that the next time this type of proposal came forward, it should come from a consolidated fire company with no divisions as was with this group.

- Michael Obremski – Representative from JCP&L. Mr. Obremski came to bring copies of the latest press release from JCP&L. He gave a few highlights. He explained how the outage alert system works. He noted that the rates will go down in June.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE

The public hearing was carried to the March 13, 2014 meeting.

Resolution #2014-33- Resolution to Approve the 2014 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.

This resolution was also carried to the March 13, 2014 meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2014 BUDGET

Resolution #2014-34 - TO INTRODUCE THE 2014 BUDGET.

This resolution was carried to the March 13, 2014 meeting. The Council asked a few questions of Mr. Blakeslee and requested a hardcopy of the budgets.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Bond Ordinance 2014-1-** To Authorize the Undertaking of Various Improvements to Firehouse No.1 in, By and for the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the sum of \$109,000.00 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in the Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

This was carried to the March 13, 2014 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Terrace Street Retaining Wall

This item was carried to the March 13, 2014 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2014 Budget

The Council would like to have a full copy of the budget before they vote on introduction next week. Mr. Blakeslee will call the Auditor for copies.

2. Social Affairs Permit – Growing Stage Theatre

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes. Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

3. Direct Deposit Legislation

The Mayor explained this new legislation. Based upon this research, direct deposit will be more expensive and one could not opt out. Paper checks appear to be the best method at present.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to bring to the floor at this time.

Councilman Koster asked if a formal letter was sent to the Fire Chief to notify him of the results of the vote from the February meeting about the fire truck. It was noted that no letter was sent. Mr. Blakeslee will rectify this situation. He also wanted to know if the new rules will be sent to the Fire Chief regarding the purchase of equipment in the future.

Councilman Hathaway requested a few minutes to review the proposed Transit Village Development Plan from Crown Point. There was some discussion regarding escrow. Mr. Blakeslee provided some details regarding efforts on this project. Councilman Hathaway provided some details of the Village layout and units. The Mayor and Council discussed possibilities and were enthused with the forward movement. Mr. Blakeslee noted that the village would be all rental as the rental market was much more active.

It was noted that the Economic Development committee was meeting with another group March 25.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2014- 35 – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 13-00008

This resolution was carried to the March 13, 2014 meeting.

2. Resolution #2014- 36 – To Support Legislation to be Drafted, Introduced and Signed into Law Extending and Making Permanent the Required Employee Health Care Benefits Payroll Contribution Set Forth in Chapter 78, P.L. 2011

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. Resolution #2014-37- To Affirm the Borough of Netcong's Civil Rights Policy with Respect to All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, and Members of the Public that Come Into Contact with Municipal Employee, Officials and Volunteers

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. Resolution 2014- 38 – Retiree Health Care Benefits

This resolution was carried to the March 13th meeting.

5. Resolution 2014-39 - Personnel Policy

This resolution was carried to the March 13th meeting.

6. Resolution 2014-40 – Police Contract

This resolution was carried to the March 13th meeting.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- 1. Ordinance 2014-3 – An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank**

This ordinance was moved to the March 13th meeting.

- 2. Ordinance 2014-4 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Police Chief to Execute an Application for a Charitable Solicitation Permit for American Legion Ambulance Corp of Stanhope/Netcong's "Coin Drop" on June 13th, June 14th, 2014 and on September 5th and September 6th, 2014 at the Intersections of Allen Street and Ledgewood Ave. and Main Street and Route 46 in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey**

This ordinance was moved to the March 13th meeting.

- 3. Ordinance 2014-5 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 of the Code of the Borough of Netcong and Revising the Policy Concerning Retiree Health Benefits**

This ordinance was moved to the March 13th meeting.

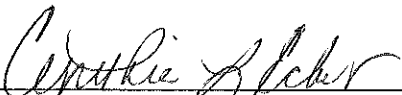
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:29 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk