

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2017 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 6, 2017.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2017 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 6, 2017.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Albensi, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes presented during this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

- Mrs. Bernadette Dalesandro – 32 Barone Street- BOE President congratulated those elected to the Borough Council.
- Mrs. Kim Arbolino – Mrs. Arbolino read a statement about her previous visit to a Council meeting. She read that she felt she was not treated fairly at that meeting about the Color Run event. She thanked the Mayor for coming to the Color Run. She provided an explanation for her disappointment with the way the Council had handled this. She was confused about why the school was suddenly charged for

police presence. She had done some studying about the organizations that have held events and some had to pay for policing and others did not. She is grateful the police officers had donated their time but the school still had to pay for the special officers. She added that if this event was moved to Indian's Field as suggested by the Council it would not be as successful. She thanked the Council for their time.

The Mayor responded that starting in 2018 all organizations will pay for policing for their events, including Netcong Day. He explains that the Borough is under the 2% cap and just cannot afford to provide these services for free. Councilman Sylvester explained that many of the amenities in the fire department were not paid by the Borough. Councilman Laurey's commented we need to look at this and be fair. He understands how Mrs. Arbolino feels and it should be fair to all. When it comes to the school, that event benefits the school and not everyone in the town. The Mayor added that the Council is working on a fair ordinance to help all. Councilman Sylvester wants to know why the school should be paying for police coverage. Councilman Still says this is something the Council needs to discuss. Councilman Hathaway says these events should be listed and authorized. Mr. Bucco noted that you can run into issues when picking out certain groups. A policy must be developed to be very clear on these issues. He further explained details on the ordinances and policies that should be developed to be fair and reasonable. Mr. Blakeslee comments there was an invoice with a total and adjusted bill. The purpose of this was to show what these events actually cost the police department. The Police Chief works very hard to be sure everyone is safe at these events. The Mayor had asked that for each event, the Chief comes up with a real cost before officers donate their time. By doing this it will be easier to produce a real budget. The purpose of these two invoices was to show how the Chief works to keep these costs down. Events put a strain on the budget and time for the administrative staff. The Mayor provided an example using the issue of the cost of overtime. Mrs. Arbolino says she is only representing the school. Mr. Blakeslee noted the Fire Dept., Ambulance Squad and other organizations also run these types of events. This is why we are developing a policy. Councilman Still asked why this is being done only by the Mayor and Administrator. He said the Council must talk about this, but tonight is not appropriate. Councilman Laureys stressed that the Council wants to be fair. He added that there are many individuals who also come looking for the taxpayers to pay for repairs to their property. Mrs. Arbolino requested that the Council keep the children in mind when making these decisions.

- Mr. Costanzo – BOE member, said years ago, the school had a surplus of \$32,000.00. They have hired a fiscally responsible Business Administrator. They have made many improvements in their budget. He explained the particulars of their budget. He requested that the Council consider the statistics of where our school stands as opposed to other districts. He stated that the Color Run provides a large sum of money to fill in the gaps for the lack of school aid we do not receive from the state.

- Mrs. Melanie Knowliing – 78 Koclas Dr. is a concerned parent and is concerned about the school. She feels every resident impacts the school even if they do not have children attending the school. She feels Netcong lacks a sense of community. She explains how this event affects the children who attend it. It is also an event that provides funding for a child to go to Washington DC. She understands how staff is doing more with less but our children should not be the victims of this.
- Miss Eva Z. 78 Koclas Dr. – She does not want to run around the football field as it would not be fun. The Color Run helps with field trips when some children cannot afford it. She stated she was sad about this.
- Miss Mia Santana - Co-President Netcong Student Council. – Hillside Ave. – The color run brings a lot to our school. Everyone looks forward to the school trips. Some parents don't have money for this so the Color Run helps. The Color Run would not be the same if they were running in a football field.
- Mr. George Quarranty – Co – President Netcong Student Council – The Color Run is fun but would not be the same at the football field. The Washington DC trip is expensive and would not be available to many students if not for the Color Run. He asked the Council to consider this. The Mayor commented that he did see all the fun that was had by all at the Color Run and the Council is working on the budget. George also suggested not all of the kids that come to the Color Run would fit at the football field.

A motion to close the public session was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
 Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

No ordinances were presented

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Councilman Sylvester- asked about the list of addresses at the end and why they are getting letters. Mr. Blakeslee said he will look into this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

In the month of October,2017 the Borough had total income in the amount \$940,295.79 as compared to the previous year of \$736,994.61

For the month of October 2017:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2017 the Borough received \$18,852.50 vs. \$1,658.14 in 2016

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk Fees:

In 2017 the Borough received \$10,225.84 vs. \$5,590.84 in 2016

State Aid

The Borough received its 2017 Energy Receipts payment in the amount of \$53,646.75 and \$5,139.15 in CMPTRA vs 2016 Energy Receipts payment in the amount of \$53,333.85 and \$5,452.05 in CMPTRA aid from the state.

Grants in Aid

In October the Borough received a \$1,223.11 Body Armor grant from the state and \$560.00 in Library Aid.

Taxes Collected

In 2017 the Borough collected \$850,648.44 vs. \$669,175.94 in 2016.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2017 is \$7,778,232.49 as opposed \$7,416,856.18 in 2016.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

The Pocketbook Factory will be at the Planning Board this month to memorialize changes.

Crown Point – Quirk submitted most of the DEP application. The committee will share in the cost for Arbolino Park.

Several traffic engineers have been interviewed regarding the impact of the redevelopment. Hiring should take place shortly.

There was a meeting with Maisano. He was sent back to the drawing board about some properties with the Council's concerns,

Shop Rite met today with more definitive plans for their project.

**Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)**

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Councilman Sylvester puts reports on file except for:

- Accident back in September involving the DPW and Police, the Chief has recovered funds to cover the cost of repairs.

Fire Department

Calls: 7

Drills: 5

Meetings: 4

Other: 6

Special Details: 1

Training: 10

Mandatory: 1

Total Fire Fighters: 50

Total Involvements: 35

Total Man Hours: 1551

Police

Total Calls: 377

**Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:**

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Road Department:

The DPW acquired the MSA dump truck and is having it inspected for safety and maintenance protocol ... Installed Mary Pierson signs along all of Allen St. ... Repaired a broken storm drain on Love Lane ... Had new tires installed on the Administrators vehicle ... Picked up 40 cu yds of grass, 72 cu yds leaves, 80 yds of brush, and chipped 4 cu yds of brush

Water Department:

Performed town wide hydrant flushing ...

Buildings & Grounds:

Coastal Clock and Chime was in to service the Main St clock Removed water tank for flowers and put into storage.... Finished cutting grass at all Borough properties and Netcong School for the season Reinstalled the pavers that were removed for the underground electric at the Main St. gazebo ... Advanced Mechanical was in for fall service of all Borough furnaces

Parks & Recreation:

Closed and winterized the Borough Parks

Snow:

Received 7 5 tons of salt to fill salt shed ... Continued vehicle prep work for winter season

Other:

Tom Mendel attended pesticide training classes Mike Canfield met with the JIF for quarterly recommendations The DPW watched JIF on line safety videos Netcong school students toured the Netcong Recycle Center Tim Hess attended the NJ Water Association conference in Atlantic City DPW assisted with signage and cones for trunk or treat. ...

Councilman Hathaway wished to add the following that was missing to this report:

- All lights and landscaping by the new sign were completed before the Halloween Events.
- All the wiring on the poles ready for the Christmas decorations.

Recreation:

J. Albensi

T. Laureys

1. Annual trunk or treat took place on Saturday October 28th, with approximately 500 in attendance. It was perfect weather for this event and great time had by all. Went through 350 hot dogs in less than an hour!!
2. The Halloween house decorating contest offered some great competition this year with first prize going to home on Ledgewood Ave, second place to Kings Road and third Koclas Drive.
3. Flyers will go out next week for our first Broadway show of 2018 -Waitress. Price is \$80 per person.
4. We are now focusing on the Annual Holiday Parade which will be held on Sunday Dec 3rd. Participants are already submitting their registrations forms. Hopefully we will see a bigger turn out than last year

Public Services:

T. Laureys

J. Albensi

**(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal**

Dial a Ride Report for October

Days of Service: 20

Miles: 828

of Stops: 92

Nutrition 3 people: 16

Food Shopping, 20 people: 60

of Meals on Wheels: 12

Medical Appointments: 37
Other Appointments: 37
People Using Services: 42
Cancels: 19
Denials: 2
Units: 328
Hours: 101.25

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business presented at this meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council had no comments at this time.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Mayor.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 2017- 115- To Appoint Wayne Benvenuto as Dial A Ride Driver

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

There were no ordinance introductions presented at this meeting.

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to pay the bills.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Mr. Bucco noted that he has a few questions about the fire truck agreement. He also has a few questions about the Mt. Olive agreement.

Councilman Albensi asked about the houses next to Shop Rite. Have they been purchased and do they own the street? He wanted to know if they are committed to redevelopment. Councilman Hathaway provided a brief explanation of this situation. Councilman Albensi wished the Planning Board would have had this knowledge before they were asked to do a study for redevelopment. Councilman Hathaway apologized for this misstep. He said the Planning Board feels they do not need to see this if it has already happened. Mr. Blakeslee offered that he wrote a memo previously to the Planning Board explaining this. Councilman Albensi noted the board did not receive it. Councilman Hathaway stated he should have been at that Planning Board meeting to explain. Councilman Hathaway gave details on the Shop Rite plans and the involvement of the Economic Development Committee.

CLOSED SESSION


No closed session

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester at 8:24PM.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk