

## **BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2019 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 4, 2019.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 9, 2019 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 4, 2019.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mrs. Jennifer Santana - 20 Hillside Ave, wished to discuss a personal issue. There are quite a few children who play basketball at Arbolino Park. She would like to know if there are plans to improve this park. The Mayor explained that Netcong is going out to bid to do a new tennis court and basketball court. The second phase will be replacing the second tennis court to exercise equipment and another court. There will also be new lighting. He added that the Borough is working with mostly federal money. She wanted to know if the nets could be replaced on the hoops. Councilman Still said public courts cannot have nets due to safety conditions. Councilman Hathaway said if it is permissible we can certainly put them on. The Mayor said the insurance company can be contacted to be sure.

Mrs. Santana said there are not many activities or places for younger children in this town with the new courts could some clinics be promoted for them. She wanted to know if the community could get involved in improving the park. The Mayor explained we need to make sure the park is completed within safety guidelines. Mrs. Santana

thanked the Council for their time. Councilman Albensi suggested she direct volunteers who would like to help the recreation commission. Mrs. Santana also stated Byram uses our school for their activities but our children are not notified that they can be involved in their programs. She would love to see programs for our own children. Councilman Hathaway offered that originally the tri town activities were to be for all but it did not end up that way. Mrs. Santana said the soccer club is trying to include Netcong and Stanhope students.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

*The following items are for discussion purposes only. Any action on these items will take place at the meeting of February 14, 2019.*

1. Approval of Minutes – December 29, 2018 Special Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2019 Re-organization Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting - Change Ms. Kerri Santalucia Page 2

A Motion made to approve all minutes noted above was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. Discussion - Progressive Properties – Performance Bond Reduction  
Mr. Blakeslee provided an overview of this subject. He noted he will be discussing this with the Borough Counsel. The Mayor said we need to be sure one unit is low to moderate income as was originally agreed. There was discussion among the Council about this subject.
5. Discussion – Pocketbook Factory Redevelopment Plan Amendment  
Mr. Blakeslee provided a brief synopsis on this subject. Councilman Hathaway made several comments on the discussion points including parking, siding and setback. Mr. Cohen was in the audience and offered to address the discussion points in his letter. The Mayor had several questions. Mr. Blakeslee made comments about the parking situation.

Lawrence Cohen, Crown Walk attorney, came forward to explain the discussion points in the letter he wrote to our planner. He read the responses from our engineer and noted that there was a misunderstanding on the set back from the railroad. Regarding the parking, he said there is a significant increase in the parking from the original plan. They want to put as much parking on the property as possible but still maintain an esthetically pleasing environment.

Councilman Hathaway noted that Mr. Guerin did not have a problem in the committee meeting with the setback. He said the Council wants to see this project go through but he has a problem with how the parking is explained and he needs clarification from Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Paul Couvrette, the project Engineer, came forward to explain the parking issue and the reasons for the change. There was lengthy discussion regarding the parking issue. It was agreed they need to go back to our professionals to double check on these changes. Mr. Cohen stated the Council has been very agreeable to get this project done which he was very grateful for, but he came here to explain the reasons for the changes. Mr. Couvrette stated that they are trying to avoid having to come back after all these negotiations to have to ask for a variance. The Mayor requested these issues be brought to the whole committee before the Council meeting. The Mayor said the Council's desire is to move this project along as well. Mr. Cohen asked when this ordinance will be introduced. He was hoping it would be on the agenda for next week.

Mr. Cohen thanked the Council for their time. Mr. Blakeslee asked for confirmation on the changes to be made so he could notify our professionals. There was further discussion among the Council on these issues.

6. Discussion – McMullen/Chestnut Street Parking

Mr. Blakeslee provided background and noted that the ordinance needs to be amended so there could be dedicated spaces for public parking in this area. He added details about the changes. Mr. Oostdyk from Mr. Bucco's office is working on the changes. The ordinance should be ready for introduction next week.

7. NEF Summer Camp- Presentation at February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilman Hathaway gave a brief explanation regarding the camp and the reason for a presentation to the Borough.

8. Correspondence – Hilltop Fire Co. #2 Food Truck Event

Councilman Sylvester provided the reasons for this request. He also provided some details for this event. The Mayor asked for a date. The reply was that this would be on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

A Motion to approve to move the event to the train station was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

9. Resolutions – Appoint Christie Stachnick – Qualified Purchasing Agent

A motion to appoint the Purchasing Agent was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

10. Resolution – Appoint Frank Cautero – Alternate #2 Planning Board Member

A motion to appoint Frank Cautero was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

11. Ordinance – Public Hearing – Fire Co. #1 Coin Drop – Feb 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

12. Ordinance – Public Hearing – Milk Vendors– Feb 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

13. Ordinance – Public Hearing – Revising Certain Requirements for the Issuance of Park Permits– Feb 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Council President: Offered help to Councilman Albensi or his family in his time of need as his wife has passed away this past week.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to speak about Karen Albensi: we are here because of our families, who wait for us when we are late support us when we are torn, these loved ones are mostly unnoticed. He thinks we should take time to appreciate Karen and all she has done for the community.

Councilman Hathaway noted that he has a proposal from another engineering firm for a grant to add a walking path in town for our residents. He provided the details. This project would not be for this year. He is setting the stage for the future. The Borough would have to pay the funds up front which would be refunded when the project is complete. The cost would be about \$275,000.00. The Borough would have to do all the work. He feels it is important and worth pursuing. He continued discussion on this project.

Mr. Guerin did not want to do this work and expressed the Council could hire someone else to do it. He said the economic development money could be used for this purpose. He noted the other surrounding towns are working on similar projects which could all be combined to provide a large walking trail for residents. Councilman Sylvester agrees this is a worthwhile project. It is \$7,500.00 for the concept plan. The Mayor sits on that committee and confirmed that there is money in that fund. He agreed it is a worthwhile program. The Council continued to discuss this topic. It was noted that the engineer has already put in 60-70 hours of work pro bono.

The Borough Clerk will provide a professional service resolution for the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilman Sylvester - Looking at the legal ads he saw the Pilot has made a request of Roxbury Twonship to add scales and showers to their existing facility. He suggested we send a letter to object to this proposal. The Council went into discussion on this topic. Councilman Hathaway suggested the Council should not give permission to the connection unless signs are installed to abate some of the truck traffic. Councilman Hathaway mentioned there was a new administrator in Roxbury. Councilman Still asked Mr. Blakeslee to contact the Roxbury Manager and Planning Board.

**MAYORS COMMENTS**

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

**PROCLAMATION**

No proclamations were presented at this meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution 2019-25 - To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 16-00006

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**CLOSED SESSION**

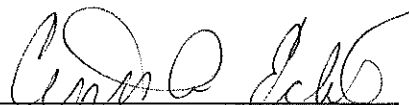
No closed session was held.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:27 PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk