

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD APRIL 4, 2013 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Nametko presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER – STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

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

The Borough Clerk read the following statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:

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 Netcong Borough Hall on January 4, 2013.
2. Publishing a notice in The Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 9, 2013 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 4, 2013.

ROLL CALL

Members of the Borough Council present at roll call were: Laureys, Hathaway, Sylvester, Still, Butler, Koster and Mayor Nametko. Ralph Blakeslee, Borough Administrator & Deputy Clerk, and Cindy Eckert, Borough Clerk were also present.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor asked if his comments could be moved to this portion of the meeting. He was reminded that he was not following the Roberts rules of order very well. He cited an example using the final roll call for adjournment and noted he was not formally asking for a formal call. He also requested that any formal statements should be completed prior to making a motion voting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Agenda Meeting of March 7, 2013
- Regular Meeting of March 14, 2013

A Motion to Approve the March 7, 2013 Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Approve the March 14, 2013 Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE

Resolution #2013-43 - Resolution to Approve the 2013 Property Assessments for the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong.

Resolution # 2013 – 43 will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

Resolution 2013-44 - Resolution Approving the Introduction of the 2013 Budget of the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District and Authorizing a Public Hearing to be Held Thereon.

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one stepping forward, the Mayor asked for a motion to close.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. Ordinance 2013-4 - 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 14TH, JUNE 15TH 2013 AND ON SEPTEMBER 6th AND SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2013 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

This ordinance will be held until the April 11, 2013 meeting.

2. Ordinance 2013-5 – ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.

This ordinance will be held until the April 11, 2013 meeting.

3. Ordinance 2013-6 – AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

This ordinance will be held until the April 11, 2013 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority – Stakeholder Working Group Invitation

The Mayor opened this topic up to the Council for discussion. Councilman Hathaway noted that this will impact passenger service. He noted issues of not enough service and the rails not being able support the additional weight of freight cars. Therefore, the transportation planning authority wanted to upgrade the weight handling capabilities of the rails. The Mayor and Council continued to discuss while referring to a diagram, the lines that were going to be affected. It was noted that the meeting was going to be 6:30 to 11:30 on April 11, which is a Council meeting night. Councilman Hathaway suggested that the Borough Engineer should attend. It was decided that Mr. Blakeslee will contact Bob Guerin to see if he can attend. Mr. Guerin would attend as a representative of the borough.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Staff Workload Assessment

Mr. Blakeslee stated that he'll have a report ready for next week. This topic was carried to the April 11, 2013 meeting

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fireman Association Application – Fire Co. #1- Robert Schellhammer

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded By Councilman Still to approve the application for Robert Schellhammer.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President, Mr. Still, stated that the Council is not getting the ordinances and other reading materials in time to properly review them before the meeting

starts. All at the meeting were in agreement about this and noted an increase in new items to be read. Ms. Eckert supplied further details regarding the information flow prior to the actual meetings. The Mayor suggested setting up cutoff dates so everyone had proper time for review and comment. Ms. Eckert, and the Council noted time sensitive issues that might not be able to be carried over to the next month. Councilman Hathaway responded with the following quote: "Your failure to plan ahead doesn't create an emergency on my end." He recommended that all new material be presented prior to the last Thursday of the previous month. He also noted there will be some special exemptions from this rule. The Council noted they did have a cutoff date for payment of bills and that was working.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to discuss what happened at the last year's Cinco de Mayo. He noted that alcohol was served at a location that was not licensed. He further explained that the owner had two lots and the one that was not licensed was where the drinks were served. The borough clerk noted that she had received an extension of premises request from the owner. Councilman Hathaway explained why an extension of premises permit would not work in this situation.

Councilman Hathaway also noted an NCP task regarding research of the parking situation downtown. He suggested the addition of metered parking to prevent people from parking and shopping areas all day long. It was noted that there was metered parking in the downtown area around 1972. Mr. Blakeslee expressed concern over a negative effect from metered parking which might drive customers away. The Council discussed getting feedback from the NCP and other business owners in the area. Councilman Hathaway felt that with or without metered parking, the two-hour parking rule is a matter of enforcement. Councilwoman Butler, however, stated that metered parking would cause her to greatly reduce her shopping time at that area. Councilman Sylvester offered that strict enforcement should be tried first. The Mayor replied that they did try this at one time, but the manpower was not there.

Councilman Sylvester wanted to report that the fire department is starting their fundraiser this weekend. The firemen are going to go door to door to ask residents to switch to a third-party power company. They believe this will save the residents money and provide a donation to the fire department.

With regard to the new traffic arrangement on Route 46, Councilman Sylvester asked how the town would be able to change the speed limits. Mr. Blakeslee is going to verify the process and get back to the Council. The Mayor noted in one town, the addition of the terminology "strictly enforced" provided a benefit.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor's comments were moved to the timeslot after the roll call.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution #2013-36** - A Resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Bond Counsel.

Councilman Still noted that this was a topic from a previous meeting and asked for some verification. Mr. Blakeslee responded that all candidates were good and the lowest bidder was selected.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Resolution #2013- 45** – A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Mark Paving Co., Inc. for the Prospect Street Improvements, Phase II in the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey.

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting

3. **Resolution #2013-47** – Certification of the Annual Audit.

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

4. **Resolution #2013-48** – To Approve 2012 Corrective Action Plan

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

5. **Resolution 2013-49** – Supporting S-1896/A -1503 Sharing the Burden of Property Assessment Appeal Refunds

The Mayor provided some background regarding this resolution.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

Ordinance 2013-7 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 276, Water and Chapter 225, Property Maintenance, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong.

Councilman Hathaway provided the background for this ordinance, which included water issues (turn offs) on private properties that became burdens on taxpayers. This ordinance was written to impose a fee, but Councilman Hathaway felt the terms and conditions were not written with enough detail. Plus it does not include the possibility of outsourcing the work. The Council discussed the language in this ordinance. "They felt the terms of "all encompassing" might work.

This ordinance was put on hold.

ADOPTION OF THE 2013 BUDGET

The adoption of the 2013 budget will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2013 BUDGET

The public hearing on the 2013 budget will also be carried to the April 11 meeting.

The Mayor noted that the County budget will also be presented at the April 11th meeting.

Resolution #2013-42 - Self-Examination of Budget Resolution.

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting

Resolution #2013-46 -To Read Budget by Title Only

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

Resolution #2013-50 - To Adopt the 2013 Budget.

This resolution will be carried to the April 11 meeting.

At this point in the meeting Councilman Sylvester asked if he could make one comment off the agenda. He asked if the volumes of paper sent to them by the auditors could be sent digitally. The Mayor suggested that if the auditors required paper and notebooks, the auditors should pay for them.

A request was also made to the Council to observe a specific video on the Internet in order to get a large discount on the town's insurance. Mr. Blakeslee requested that when the Council members get their certificate, they printed out so the town could have a copy. The Council has until May 31 to complete this.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:38 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk