

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD DECEMBER 5, 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 Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

The Mayor made a statement in honor of Joe Albensi. He held a Moment of Silence. Councilman Hathaway also gave a statement in honor of Councilman Albensi.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Seeing no one stepping forward, the Mayor asked for a motion. Councilman Sylvester made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Councilman Koster seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ENGINEER AD HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. John Ruschke was introduced by the Mayor as the recommended engineer to replace retiring engineer Bob Guerin. Mr. Ruschke stepped forward to introduce himself to the Council. He gave his personal and professional background as well as naming some of the municipalities he has worked in. He also provided a brief description on

some of the projects he has worked on in the past. He listed some of his certifications and qualifications. He explained he works for a large engineering firm which gives him many resources and expertise as needed. He explained he would be the day to day contact, not the larger company. He described the members of his support staff. He is looking forward to meeting everyone and becoming part of the community. Mr. Blakeslee gave a brief description of the meeting he had with DPW Superintendent and how well it went. He told the Council he feels it has been a good decision. The Mayor asked if anyone from the Planning Board was present. Mr. Dellamo who was on the ad hoc committee stepped forward to say he was very pleased with the choice. Mr. Anthony who was on the ad hoc committee as well came up to let the Council know he was pleased with the answers given by Mr. Ruschke; the Council is in agreement that Mr. Ruschke is a good fit. Mr. Blakeslee would like to set up a meeting with Mr. Guerin our current engineer. He requested Mr. Ruschke's appointment be placed on the reorg. agenda. Mr. Ruschke stated he already knows Mr. Guerin. The Council thanked him for his time.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The following items are for discussion purposes only. Any action on these items will take place at the meeting of December 12, 2019.

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – November 7, 2019
Regular Meeting – November 14, 2019

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the agenda meeting minutes.

Roll Call: 3 Yes Abstain: Councilmen Hathaway and Koster.

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the regular meeting minutes.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Ordinance Adoptions – Ordinance 2019-16** – To Amend Chapter 268 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article IX, Stop Intersections, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong Providing for a Stop Intersection at College Rd. and Stoll St. with the Stop Sign on Stoll St.

This ordinance was carried to the December 12, 2019 meeting.

3. **Ordinance Adoptions - Ordinance 2019-17** – To Amend Chapter 194 Land Development Procedures, Article V Administration and Procedures, Section 27 Notice of Hearings on Applications, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong

This ordinance was carried to the December 12, 2019 meeting.

4. **Correspondence** – Letter – Netcong Community Partnership

5. Correspondence – Letter – MUA 3rd Quarter Recycle Report

Mr. Hathaway would like to find a new vendor for recycling. He did not feel there was a good business plan. Mr. Still and the Mayor agreed.

Mr. Blakeslee reminded the Council they will be able to go out to bid for recycling when we renew our garbage contract next year.

The Mayor made several additional remarks.

6. Correspondence – Letter – DOT – Grant Award - Helen Way

The Mayor noted that the grant would be handled by the new borough engineer.

7. Correspondence – Letter - Netcong Republican Committee – Replacement Recommendation for Open Council Seat

Mr. Sylvester recommended Mr. J.W. Albensi as replacement for the open seat.

A Motion to accept Joseph W. Albensi to fill the open council seat was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business – Appointment of Richard E. Henderson as a Firefighter for Fire Co. No.1

A Motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still to approve the appointment.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

10. Resolution 2019- 109- Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Surplus Property.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

11. Resolution 2019-110 – Authorizing the Cancellation of Small Balances Under the Amount of \$10.00

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

12. Resolution 2019-111 – Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with The United States Department of Agriculture (Rural Development) for the Purchase of Two Electronic Message Boards, Police Department Computers and Snow Removal Equipment.

This was carried to the December 12, 2019 meeting.

13. Introduction – Ordinance

No ordinances were introduced at this meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President welcomed J.W. Albensi to the Council.

Councilman Still wished to report that the DPW did great a job on the roads with the storm on Monday.

MAYORS COMMENTS

No comments this evening.

PROCLAMATION

No proclamations were presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Frank Cautero, 11 College Rd., had a question about the new engineer using junior engineers and how they will be billed at a lesser rate. He would like to know how we will check on these bills to make sure they are charging the correct rate. The Mayor explained we may not know for sure but would hope they will be honest in their billing. He explained we have never had an issue with our current professionals. Mr. Koster gave explanation on how they bill. Mr. Hathaway stated he had the same concern. He stated the contract for the professionals is for 1 year. If there are issues, we can always go out with another RFP to find another engineer. Mr. Dellamo explained the Planning Board fees are usually paid by the applicant not the town. Mr. Blakeslee explained how some of the projects are billed and paid. He added that some of the work is his direct responsibility.

Mr. Cautero also had a question about the library. Mr. Blakeslee explained we have an extension of the Morris County Library. Mr. Hathaway explained they can come to the Borough Hall every Thursday to order and pick up books. Mr. Hathaway explained the Council was not happy with this situation but were unable to change it. The Borough had no recourse. There was discussion among the council on this subject. The County College was mentioned as another library that could be used. Mr. Cautero thanked the Council for their time.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

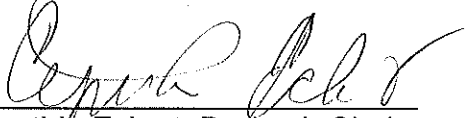
None

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:07 PM.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk