

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 9, 2020 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.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Agenda Meeting – December 5, 2019
- Regular Meeting – December 12, 2019

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes                      Abstain: Councilman Hathaway

#### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

None presented

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1. Letter – Van Cleef Engineering- Robert Guerin

The Mayor asked if everyone reviewed the letter and requested that it be filed.

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee reported the following:

- 1. Public Works and Economic Development meetings.
- 2. Personnel policy on agenda tonight.
- 3. Attended JIF reorg elected chair of claims committee.
- 4. Public safety meeting with FOP.
- 5. RFQ out for slab at Arbolino Park for Phase II Mike Canfield has been working on it. One came back on time. 2 others should submit late.
- 6. Finished draft work on Shop Rite plans.
- 7. Councilman Still asked how Tony tank project is going. Mr. Blakeslee explained this was discussed at the Public Works Meeting. Councilman Koster gave details on the game plan in this matter. There will need to be some more investigative work. The Mayor asked about the gauge in the tennis court, he wanted to know if it had been repaired. He would like to do a formal ribbon cutting this spring.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance & Insurance:**

**E. Still**

**J. Sylvester**

Councilman Still read his report.

For the month of December 2019, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$152,720.31 as compared to December 2018 of \$111,063.74.

For the month of December 2019:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2019 the Borough received \$1,764.00 compared to \$3,903.00 in 2018

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$18,989.85 in 2019 compared to \$14,353.36 in 2018.

State Aid:

There was \$19,595.30 in State Aid received for 2019 and \$19,595.30 in 2018.

**Grants in Aid:**

We didn't receive any funds for 2019 and \$10,580.89 was received in 2018.

**Taxes Collected:**

The Borough collected \$112,371.16 in 2019 compared to \$62,631.19 in 2018.

**Income Total Year to Date:**

The Total Income Year to date for 2019 is \$10,503,704.18 as compared to \$9,733,400.43 in 2018.

**Economic Development: R. Hathaway      E. Still**

Councilman Hathaway reported the following:

- Met with Shop Rite. They have come to an agreement that is in everyone's interest. There were some minor changes in the agreement. There should be a developer's agreement soon and then they can start working on the financial agreement. He provided details on the plans.
- Crown Walk agreement was on the agenda this evening. Issues have been resolved. There is now a good arrangement for all and language issues have been resolved. He requests we move forward this evening. Mr. Bucco added several comments on this issue. There was discussion on this matter among the Council. The owner's attorney (in the audience) made a comment on this.

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

**J. Sylvester**

**E. Koster**

Councilman Sylvester read the reports. He thanked all the departments (police, fire dept. 1<sup>st</sup> aid squad) and those involved with the Maple Ave. fire.

Ambulance Corps, December, 2019

Total Calls: 61

Out of town calls: 5

Total patients: 47

Total Hospital Trips: 32

Miles Traveled: 1268 miles

Hours Volunteered: 448 hours 47 mins.

Fire Department, December 2019

Total Calls: 17

Total Drills: 3

Administrative Details: 5

Total Members: 41

Total Time Volunteered: 774 hours, 57 minutes

Fire Department, Year 2019

Total Calls: 132

Drills: 74

Administrative Details: 59

Total Time Volunteered: 5,868 hours, 5 minutes

Police Department

Total Calls: 462

Motor Vehicle Summons: 122

Overweight trucks: 8

**Dept. of Public**

**Works & Utilities:**

**E. Koster**

**R. Hathaway**

Councilman Koster read the report.

Road Department:

Performed final town wide brush and leaf pick ups .... Cleared a storm drain clog on Koclas Dr. requiring use of the new jetter and outlet excavation near the lake .... R&J performed 4th qtr generator servicing ....

Water Department:

The Mt Olive water interconnect was opened during the course of fighting the Maple Ave. fire and used 192,000 gallons from American Water ....

Buildings & Grounds:

Peterson's Tree Service removed a large dead tree near the refreshment stand at Indian Field which was damaged in an ice storm .....

Snow:

Prepped snow blowers and winterized summer equipment .... Performed salting and or plowing responsibilities on December 2nd, 3rd, 11th, 17th and 18th ....

Other:

Mike Canfield attended the Borough's 4th quarter safety meeting .... Brought light towers and message boards back to the County from the cancelled Holiday Parade ... The swirl chamber was cleaned on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> .... DPW employees watched a series of JIF recommended safety videos .... Mike Canfield attended a meeting with Isolotek to keep the lines of communication open in regards to truck traffic on Main St .... DPW assisted with the Maple Ave. fire including general planning, salting of ice, traffic assistance, and various support of Police, Fire, Gas, and excavation entities ....

**Recreation:**

**J. Albensi**

**T. Laureys**

Councilman Albensi read his report.

1. Recreation will be sponsoring a Broadway show bus trip into NYC on Saturday March 7th to see the Broadway Sensation, Aint Too Proud, The Temptation Story. Tickets are available for \$110 per person and includes theater ticket and transportation to and from theater. A blast should be going out soon. Event is on town calendar.
2. Our summer concert series is booked! Our first event will be on Friday June 19th which will be our annual Kids Color In The Park Contest. We will have a DJ, chalk contest, as well as a few other surprises.
3. Our schedule for this year will include our annual Easter Event, Garage Sale, weekly Tai Chi/Qi Gong classes beginning in May, Movie Nites – co sponsored with Municipal Alliance, 5K Race, Trunk or Treat, as well as a planned end of summer family bash (more details to follow).
4. Recreation will be working with DPW to have a few lights added to DiRenzo Park. The children’s playground area is quite dark during evening events and we felt the lighting would add to the safety for all attending.

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

**T. Laureys**

**J. Albensi**

Councilman Laureys read his report.

Dial A Ride for December 2019  
 Days of Service: 19  
 Miles: 949  
 Number of Stops: 69  
 Nutrition for 2 people: 14  
 Food Shopping: 49  
 Number of meals on wheels: 14  
 Medical Appointments: 172  
 People Using Services: 39  
 Cancels: 16 (snow days, holidays)  
 Denials: 0  
 Units: 342  
 Hours: 96.5

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was presented.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Crown Walk Developer Agreement

The Mayor provided a commentary regarding this topic.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Council President Sylvester: Amendment for personnel policy; he questioned if it was capped at 40 hours that could be used per calendar year. Mr. Bucco stated it does not say that in the legislation. Mr. Bucco verified this is for sick time only. There was discussion on the particulars of this new law. The Mayor offered that there is one typo in the policy.

Councilman Koster had a question about the Shop Rite changes. Councilman Hathaway gave the details on the particulars. He explained Mr. David Romano came to explain the new plans. The Council continued discussion regarding this topic.

Councilman Hathaway: Morris County Trail Grant; John Hansen (ELP) will prepare the proposal. Mr. Ruschke had no concern about this. Councilman Hathaway stated Mr. Hansen did much of the work pro bono effort (over 100 hours.) He feels we should give them the work for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Councilman Still asked if there were issues with the previous situation. Councilman Koster asked why we cannot use our own engineer to do this. Councilman Hathaway responded to that statement. Mr. Bucco stated you have to be careful in this situation. He would like to have additional information on this subject before a decision is made. Councilman Koster asked what is left of the project. It was determined the engineer would be overseeing the project at this point. The Mayor would prefer to give this to our Borough Attorney. Councilman Still would also like to have our attorney involved in this decision. Councilman Hathaway said either way, we must get moving on the phase 2. He gave details on the phase 2 project. Councilman Sylvester asked for the time table. Councilman Hathaway said it needs to start now. Mr. Blakeslee gave details on some of the issues involved in the walk way along Koclas Dr. and permits be filed and in hand before we apply for the trail grant. There was further discussion on the particulars of this trail grant application. Mr. Blakeslee gave his opinions on what needs to be done to prepare for this grant including designing and permits. Councilman Hathaway wanted to be sure we had phase 1 accepted before we started on phase 2. Councilman Still suggested this gets started. The Mayor said who do we use our own professional or someone else. There was further discussion on the issue of choosing an engineer. Councilman Sylvester suggested we go with our own engineer.

Councilman Hathaway said the county will not take on funding sidewalks. He feels we should get estimates to do sidewalks in the trail area. There should be sidewalks because there is a safety issue as people will have to walk on the road in this area. There was discussion among the Council on applying for safe streets money to accomplish this as well. There is land on the lake side that the Borough owns that can accommodate the sidewalks.

There was discussion on the particulars of the phase 2 portion. There was further discussion on the full scope of this project. The Council directed Mr. Blakeslee to contact the Borough engineer to get started.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor had one comment: everyone elected is here to serve the residents which include cost efficiency where possible. We do need to question everything that comes over the table. We need to consider tightening the money belt to do the best we can for the residents.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution 2020-21- Appointing Derek Kuncken as Class II Special Police Officer
2. Resolution 2020-22 – Consenting to the Appointment of Michael Grogan as the Borough's Representative to the Musconetcong Sewage Authority
3. Resolution 2020-23 – Amendment to Personnel Policy
4. Resolution 2020-24 – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 19-00004
5. Resolution 2020-25 – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 19-00009
6. Resolution 2020-26 – Designating Crown Walk Urban Renewal, LLC, as Redeveloper and Authorizing the Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement for Block 19 Lot 14 Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40:12a-1 Et Seq.

The Attorney for the developer asked if this resolution is only for the redevelopment.

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the above-mentioned resolutions.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Exception on 2020-26-No: Councilman Laureys.

## **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1. Ordinance 2020-1-** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR NETCONG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1's "COIN DROP" ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 AND ROUTE 183 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2020-1 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2020-1 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

## **REPORTS**

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

## **BILLS**

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Mr. Bucco gave \$100.00 toward the Mr. J. Albensi fund. He stated Councilman Albensi will be missed. He gave several comments about the end of year candy bar and apologized for not being present at the reorganization meeting. He thanked the council and stated he is honored to represent the Borough.

Councilman Sylvester wanted to acknowledge National Law Enforcement Day. The Council unanimously agreed.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session at this meeting.

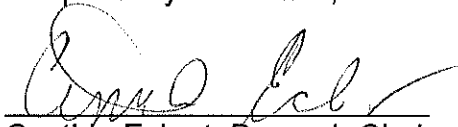


**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk