

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MAY 7, 2020 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.

Mayor Nametko called the virtual meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT OF 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 Borough Hall on January 3, 2020.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 15, 2020 and sending a copy to the Star Ledger on January 3, 2020.

ROLL CALL

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

Before the Public session was open, Mayor Nametko provided instructions for the virtual audience regarding how to use the video conference features.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Freeholder Stephen Shaw wanted to thank the Council on behalf of the Freeholders for all their leadership during these extraordinary times. He provided highlights on what the Freeholders are doing during this crisis. He stated the number of Corona Virus cases in Morris County are dropping. He commented on the testing site in the county and how smoothly it is running. There was no aid to Morris County from the Care Act. He was concerned about this. He mentioned Senator Bucco has been helping to make a change there. He also said Atlantic Health is doing a great job during this crisis. The Mayor thanked Mr. Shaw for his comments and let Mr. Shaw know Netcong has a food bank running at this time and invited him to come witness it on either Tuesday or Thursday of each week. Mr. Shaw said the Freeholders have provided funding to some food banks and is glad to see Netcong providing this service to its residents and neighbors. The Mayor let him know where some of the donations have come from, including Rotary, Netcong Community Partnership, Netcong Education Foundation and Mt. Olive Township.

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

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 May 14, 2020.

1. **Minutes** – April 2, 2020- Councilman Hathaway wanted the minutes to reflect that the school used a sanitizer gun not UV light. The clerk will make the change.

2. **Minutes** – April 9, 2020

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the minutes with the change being made by the Clerk as requested by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Hearing and Adoption of the 2020 Municipal Budget**

This was carried to the may 14h meeting.

Resolution 2020-56 -To Read the 2020 Budget by Title Only.

This resolution was carried to the May 14th Meeting.

Resolution 2020-57 -To Adopt the 2020 Budget

This resolution was carried to the May 14th Meeting.

4. **Public Hearing and Adoption of SID Budget**

This was carried to the May 14th Meeting.

Resolution 2020-58 – Approving the 2020 Budget for the Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong

The resolution was carried to the May 14 Meeting.

5. **Ordinance Adoption - Capital Ordinance 2020-7** - CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING VARIOUS EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$22,500 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

This ordinance was carried to the May 14 Meeting.

6. **Ordinance Adoption - Capital Ordinance 2020-8-** CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION OF AN ASPHALT ROLLER IN, BY AND FOR THE SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$10,500 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

This ordinance was carried to the May 14th Meeting.

7. **Ordinance Adoption – Bond Ordinance 2020-9 –** BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$335,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE STATE GRANTS, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

This ordinance was carried to the May 14 Meeting.

8. **Ordinance Adoption - Bond Ordinance 2020-10-** BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$288,200 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

This ordinance was carried to the May 14 Meeting.

9. **Ordinance Adoption - Ordinance 2020-11 -** 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 was carried to the May 14th meeting.

10. **Correspondence** – Email from Ben Dellamo – Shop Rite

Council requested that this be carried to May 14th meeting

11. **Old Business** – None

12. **New Business** – Appointment of Austin Popelka Firefighter for Fire Co. No.2

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

13. **New Business** – Appointment of Ralph Nastro Firefighter for Fire Co. No.2

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

14. **Resolution 2020-59-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Seven Desktop Computers for the Netcong Police Department

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

15. **Resolution 2020-60-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Four Tablet Computers for the Netcong Police Department

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

16. **Resolution 2020-61-** Authorizing the Acquisition of a Utility Vehicle for the Department of Public Works Through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Co-Op #65MCESCCPS

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

17. **Resolution 2020-62-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Two Electronic Message Boards Through the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System Contract CC-0099-19

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

18. **Resolution 2020-63-** Authorizing Acquisition of Technology Equipment for Borough Administrative Offices and Netcong Police Department

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

19. **Resolution 2020-64-** Resolution Urging the State Of New Jersey To Provide Direct Stabilization Funding to Morris County from The Coronavirus Relief Fund

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

20. **Resolution 2020-65-** Determining the Cancellation of Liquor License No. 1428-31-012-001, Netcong Columbus Club

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

The Council discussed the reasoning for this and asked about liquor licenses as well as the regulations of club license and business licenses. Mr. Bucco provided information regarding liquor licenses.

There was brief discussion on this resolution and the reasons for the surrender of this license. There was discussion on the different types of liquor licenses.

21. **Ordinance Introduction** – Ordinance 2020 -12 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 54, Police Department, Article Iv, Fees, Section 54-16, Fees, Paragraph F, Contracted Police Services, Subparagraph (3) of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

This resolution was carried to the May 14th meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Hathaway: Wished to discuss the State-owned areas around Lake Musconetcong and the lack of maintenance on the grounds along Koclas Dr. and Allen St. The Borough needs to take a stand on the poison ivy growing at the state park as well as the trash there. Councilman Hathaway recalled that the Council voted on it last year. He also mentioned the noxious weed ordinance and that we are not getting any attention from the state park on this. He took some pictures to share. They reflect the amount of garbage that's there. He saw approximately 1000 bottles and cans where the new kayak launch will be installed. He also noted some construction debris and feels this is fully out of control. He would like the state park service to clean it and enforce litter laws. He would like to take a stand with them on this and ticket them if necessary. Councilman Laureys suggested we should treat all properties the same whether resident or government entities. If private residents are held accountable the government entities should be treated the same. The Mayor gave a comment on this matter. He stated he sent a letter to DEP and contacted the State Park making them aware of this issue but has not had a response to his concerns. There was discussion as to whether these properties belong to the state. Councilman Hathaway explained it has already been determined it belongs to the state and they are not maintaining it properly. He would like to see some enforcement on this. Mr. Bucco would be willing to review this with Mr. Blakeslee and come up with a plan. Mr. Blakeslee explained they had walked all these areas with a state park employee last year and were told there were no leases on file. There was research done to give names of the residents that lived across the street from these areas and they were given to the state so they could have residents remove their items from the shoreline. There was discussion that the state or property owners should be maintaining these areas but our DPW ends up cleaning these areas because nothing

is done. He gave further comments and details on this issue. He stated we seemed to be ignored by the state when it comes to these issues. Mr. Bucco stated the Borough can enforce these types of regulations against the state. He said we may have to put them on notice first. Councilman Hathaway gave several comments on the seriousness of this situation Councilman Laureys asked Mr. Blakeslee to give details on how the notification for these issues is done. Mr. Blakeslee gave details and time frames on the process. There was discussion among the Council on the time frames for this process.

Councilman Koster expressed his concern about losing the Knights of Columbus building. There are a lot of groups that use that building. Councilman Hathaway explained the school board and Netcong Education Foundation are interested in purchasing it to use as a community center. He provided details about this. There was lengthy discussion among the council about this issue and the possibilities for this building. There were concerns expressed by the Council about membership and funding. Councilman Laureys offered if the property was purchased and used, it could become a rate-able.

Councilman Still stated that there are younger people on the school property and they are not complying with social distancing. There have been people at the basketball courts as well. He is concerned because these kids are about 17 years old and they could care less what happens to anybody in their families. Mr. Blakeslee will inform the Chief and Health Department. It was suggested the state police be notified. He added that our police officers would have more pull communicating with the state police than a regular citizen. There was discussion on how to block off these areas. This included suggesting to DPW Superintendent Mike Canfield to find something a little more substantial to block the entrances than the vinyl fence. There was further discussion on this subject. Councilman Hathaway suggested this is civil disobedience as fences were taken down. We should use the cameras to see who is responsible for taking the fences down and summon them to avoid pursuing groups who may not have been involved. Mr. Blakeslee explained the cameras at the parks do not transmit back to the police department in live time like the ones at the school. There are recordings however. It was noted that there were legitimate reasons for people to be at this school such as food distribution. There was further discussion on how to deal with this issue.

Mr. Blakeslee wanted to thank the staff and department heads for dealing well with these difficult circumstances. He explained we will continue with cycling employees bi weekly as this crisis continues.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

PROCLAMATION

There were no proclamations.

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: 6 Yes

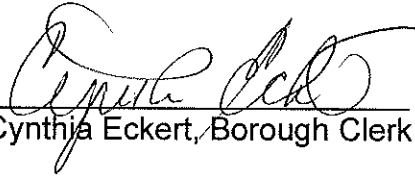
CLOSED SESSION

Closed session was not held during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk