

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 4, 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 Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

No public came forward to speak.

Chief Blesson would like to speak with the Council. He would like to address the Council with some sensitive information about an activity that will take potentially take place this weekend.

It is suggested by Councilman Sylvester this discussion take place in a closed session. Mr. Bucco said that is possible as long as the public can be excluded from the closed portion of this virtual meeting.

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

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 June 11, 2020.*

1. **Minutes** – May 7, 2020
2. **Minutes** – May 14, 2020

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### 3. **ANNUAL AUDIT**

1. **Resolution #2020-71** -Certification of the Annual Audit.

This will be carried to the June 11 meeting.

2. **Resolution #2020-72**-To Approve the 2019 Corrective Action Plan.

This will be carried to the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

4. **Ordinance Adoptions** –Ordinance 2020-12- 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 will be carried to the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

5. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence presented at this meeting.

6. **Old Business** – None

7. **New Business**- League of Municipalities Conference

The Mayor would pass this subject to the Council's consideration. He said he has been attending for 22 years. He feels it is not what it used to be the last several years. He is suggesting the Borough pay for 1 night's stay expenses since there are not a lot of CEU's available. Councilman Sylvester suggested we eliminate it for this year. The Council feels the convention will be canceled this year anyway

8. **Resolution 2020-68** – Authorize Cancellation of Capital Account Fund Balances

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

9. **Resolution 2020-69-** Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Flanders Road Resurfacing Project

Councilman Koster asked if this should be held off until the Pocketbook Factory project is done. There was brief discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Still asked why this road is on the list when we have two major projects going on in this area. Mr. Blakeslee suggested we postpone this vote and consult the engineer and DPW Superintendent. This resolution is tabled until next week.

A Motion to table resolution 2020-69 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

10. **Resolution 2020-70-** Authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to Execute a Federal Aid Agreement with the NJDOT

Councilman Laureys has a question on this resolution he says it lists the roads but not work that is actually being done. Mr. Blakeslee explained the reason for this resolution is to approve the funding of the design work of this project by the DOT not the actual execution of the project

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

11. **Ordinance Introduction – Capital Ordinance 2020-13-** Capital Ordinance Of The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, New Jersey Authorizing The Undertaking Of Various Road Improvements In, By And For The Borough, Appropriating Therefor The Sum Of \$67,000 And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised From Capital Fund Balance Of The Borough.

This was carried to the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilman Sylvester – Regarding Mr. Blakeslee's report: executive order 150 allows bars and restaurants to extend the dining areas on their premises. In the letter it says they cannot impede parking or traffic. Mr. Blakeslee will change the letter. Councilman

Hathaway stated it is private property parking not public parking spaces. Mr. Bucco verified this is correct. He added any liquor licenses must be treated like social affair permit licenses. The Police Chief will have to approve these licenses first. BYOB would also be allowed once approved by the borough. There was discussion among the council on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee asked for clarification from Mr. Bucco on who needs a license for serving liquor. Councilman Laureys asked about the extension for businesses; would we be charging them for this special permit. It was determined no fees were anticipated.

A Motion to approve the Zoning Officer to move forward on these permits and the Police Chief and Borough Clerk to approve liquor licenses without a vote from the Council was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

Councilman Hathaway: was happy to see how quickly the new message boards were up and working.

Councilman Albensi: Are speed tables for College Rd. ready yet? Mr. Blakeslee said they are in the budget and should be in before school starts. Councilman Sylvester asked if that was upper Stoll and College Rd. He also asked if the stop sign on Stoll St. would be included. Mr. Blakeslee confirmed both upper Stoll St. and College Rd. will have the tables installed and the stop will be included as well.

Councilman Still thanked the Borough employees for all they have done during this difficult time.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

The Mayor noted that he has a new neighbor who is complaining that there is no stop sign by the Kings Rd. and Highland Ave. intersection. He is requesting Mr. Bucco compose an amendment to the ordinance to change that and allow a stop sign there. Councilman Laureys asked if a stop sign is necessary at that area. Mr. Bucco said this is not a Council decision this should be a decision from our engineer. Mr. Bucco would have to have a letter from the Borough engineer before he can change the ordinance. There was further detailed discussion on this subject.

Councilman Hathaway made several comments on the Maisano property on Ledgewood Ave. and the taking down of all the shade trees. He stated what was done there was not in the best interest of the Borough and perhaps it is time for the Borough to adopt a tree ordinance to avoid this from happening again. There was discussion among the Council regarding this subject. Mr. Blakeslee explained last fall he had a discussion with Mr. Maisano about the maintenance of his property. At that time Mr. Maisano stated he would cut down several trees and paint the houses but that is not what was done. All trees have been removed and the houses are not painted. The

Council is not pleased with this situation. Councilman Hathaway provided additional details along with his opinion on how to rectify this and situations like it in the future. Councilman Hathaway is very displeased about this. He suggested Mr. Bucco send a copy of the ordinance that he wrote from another town on this tree removal to the Council.

Councilman Sylvester asked if the letter was sent to the Planning Board on the sidewalk issue as requested at last month's meeting. No letter has been sent yet. Mr. Bucco sent a copy of the ordinance to both the Borough Engineer and Mr. Dunne, Planning Board Attorney for review. Mr. Blakeslee and Mr. Bucco will write the letter to the Planning Board next week.

### **PROCLAMATION**

No proclamations were presented.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

No public came forward.

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to close the public session.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

Whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey as follows:

The public shall be excluded from the remaining portion of this meeting.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

### **Attorney Client Privilege – Police Investigating Matter and Planning**

As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

### **Adjournment into Executive Session**

A motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:16PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes


A motion to come out of Closed Session was made at 8:29PM by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:30 PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Cynthia L. Eckert

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk