

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD AUGUST 13, 2020 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.**

Mayor Nametko called the 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 (remote access as of 7:35pm,) Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk. Mr. Bucco, Mr. Canfield, Mr. Vozza and Mr. Hess were on the conference line.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- July 9, 2020

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Seeing no one speaking up, a Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

## **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2020-15-** 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

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2020-15 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-15 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2020-16-** 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" 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 Read Ordinance 2020-16 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-16 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email – Kings Rd. Block Party

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the permit.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Letter – Netcong Fire Co. #1

Councilman Koster gave explanation/details of the contents of this letter. There was brief discussion among the council on this matter. The Council felt it would be worthwhile for the Borough to purchase this shipping container for storage.

Councilman Hathaway made a motion to purchase the container from the Netcong Fire Dept. for \$5000.00. The Mayor asked if the Borough could pay ½ now and ½ after the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter property tax payments were processed. Councilman Koster agreed to that if necessary. Councilman Albensi seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Councilman Koster: Abstain

3. Memo – Chief Blesson – Letters of Commendation

(Councilman Sylvester will read when doing his reports.)

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. Byram Construction is losing their secretary and may not be able to continue the shared service agreement with us. Mr. Blakeslee detailed the possible solutions to this issue. There was discussion about fees among the Council. The Mayor had several comments on this issue. The Council is not in favor of bringing this service back to Netcong.
2. Our shared service with Netcong School for janitorial services is up at the end of this year. The department heads are not pleased with this agreement. We would continue snow removal for the remainder of the year. Councilman Still stated we have been doing their snow removal for years. It is agreed among the Council that Netcong no longer does grass cutting or janitorial services, but continue to do the snow removal. There was discussion among the Council on this matter. Mr. Blakeslee explained several strategies for replacing the janitorial services.
3. Finance Committee recommending we do RFP for banking again. There have been some issues

A Motion to go out for banking RFP was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. The police computers are getting an upgrade.
5. Altice agreement on the agenda tonight.
6. EDC will be meeting with Shop Rite for details of their project.

A Motion to go out to bid for Trail grant project was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A motion to go out to bid for Locust Helen Way Dogwood was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **Zoning Inquires**

1. El Coyote, LLC – siding question and sign
2. 35 Ledgewood Ave – can it be converted to two residential units
3. 76 Koclas Drive - dumpster in the street
4. Tree removal question - Dellamo
5. 16 Cross Street - zoning requirements
6. 35 Ledgewood Avenue – can it be converted to a two family (no)
7. 31 Ledgewood Avenue – is it a legal three family (no)
8. 90 Main Street – approved for dual use (business/residential) in the Business Zone – no, unless it is a home occupation.
9. 67 Railroad Avenue - Progressive Property – still need survey for zoning permit
10. Multiple conversations regarding Pocketbook Factory site plan amendment for ramp/stairs/sidewalk
11. 57 Railroad Avenue - pool placement, side yard setbacks.  
Reviewed survey, pictures for possible placement, etc.
12. 7 Flanders – addition question, prepared and sent memo to Ted Dunne on nonconforming use, email to property owner indicating that a zoning permit cannot be issued and advising if they want to move forward to apply to the Planning Board for a variance, property located in Business Zone

13. El Coyote Building Site – review of Planning Board resolution regarding sign issue
14. 22 Old Budd Lake Road – researched block and lot file, confirmed location in the Business zone and email to property owner indicating that a zoning permit cannot be issued and advising if they want to move forward to apply to the Planning Board for a variance
15. 88 Koclas - researching prior BOA approval of garage improvements, second unit.
16. 14 Amendola Drive – Shed size – when does size trigger a building permit
17. 31 College Road – question regarding addition to single family home

### **Zoning Permits Issued**

1. 14-16 Flanders Road - Change of Ownership
2. 29 Hillside Ave - Pool, Fence, Patio
3. 67 Block 8, Lot 36.07 – final zoning approval for single family residence

### **Zoning Inspections Conducted - all issued in June.**

1. 51 Wiltop Road, four-foot fence around patio
2. 28 Hilts Lane - above the ground pool
3. 23 Barone Street, backyard patio, with pavilion - instructed to check with Byram Twp for building permits
4. Approved temporary outdoor zoning permits for Ron's Landmark, Polo's Sports Bar, Don Jose, Rose's Place, A Nets Pub.
5. 50 Route 206/183 - Sweet Manna Bakery - operating out of Polo's Bar & Grill
6. 65 Railroad Avenue – four-foot rear yard fence
7. 97 Stoll Street – AC pad
8. 7 Stoll Street – patio
9. 46 Wiltop Road – Shed

### **Zoning Warnings Issued**

1. 88 Koclas Drive, Block 2, Lot 34, possible illegal conversion of single family to two family properties.

Reviewed block and lot file – indication that property was before the Board of Adjustment in May of 1995 for conversion of a garage to living space. Need to review BOA minutes.

**200 Foot Lists Issued**

1. Block 20, lot 3
2. Block 19, Lot 14
3. Block 9501, Lot 1(Roxbury Township)

**Court-Zoning & Property Maintenance**

1. 7/13/20 - Preliminary hearing 42, 44, 26 Ledgewood Avenue (Maisano)
2. 7/20/20 - 94 Main Street (Hubbard), Trial, 42,46 Ledgewood Avenue (Maisano), Preliminary hearing 121 Main Street
3. 7/27/10 - 94 Main Street (Hubbard) continuation of trial, 42, 46 Ledgewood Avenue

**JULY 2020 - PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**NOTICES FOR GRASS CUTTING**

1. 5 MARC COURT
2. 97 MAIN ST
3. 111 ALLEN ST
4. 52 ALLEN ST
4. 10 HILLSIDE AVE

**JUNK & DEBRIS COMPLAINTS - NOTICES SENT**

1. 35 COLLEGE RD
2. 22 FLANDERS RD
3. 37 LEDGEWOOD AVE

**RENTAL INSPECTIONS**

1. 26 A RAILROAD AVE
2. 46 DELL AVE
3. 78 MAIN ST (APT A & b)
4. S DOGWOOD RD

5. 55 WILTOP RD
6. 5 MARC COURT
7. 3 HERRICK RD
8. 100 STOLL ST (APT 1&2)
9. 18 FLANDERS RD
10. 18 AMENDOLA DR
11. 15 MAPLE AVE (APTS A, B AND C)
12. 27 KOCLAS DR
13. 94 MAIN ST (APT A, B, C) TWO OF THE THREE UNITS NEED TO BE REINSPECTED
14. 14 MAIN ST
15. 43 MAPLE AVE
16. 16 MAIN ST (APTS. A, B AND C)
17. 100 MAIN ST
18. 49 ALLEN ST
19. 7 FLANDERS RD

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **FINANCE & INSURANCE: E.                      STILL                      J. SYLVESTER**

Councilman Still had some concerns about the Borough's insurance renewal and asked Mr. Vozza our risk manager (Vozza Agency) to explain the Joint Insurance Fund insurance and how it works. Mr. Vozza provided a detailed explanation on how the JIF works and that it is self-insured which saves money for members. He gave details on the many benefits of the Joint Insurance Fund. He continued to explain the monthly meetings are held much like a Mayor and Council meeting. Mr. Blakeslee explained the reason why this issue has been raised is because our renewal is coming up this year. Councilman Still explained he wants the Council to understand how this works before they vote on this because there is a lot of money involved in this decision. The Mayor asked if there are members in the Morris County JIF from other counties. Mr. Vozza elaborated on this subject and some of the benefits of being in the JIF. The Mayor's concern is if these other towns are joining, will that cost the current members more money. Mr. Blakeslee explained you cannot just join the JIF. A town must submit documentation of their previous claims with other funds and can be turned down if they are a risk. Mr. Vozza further explained this subject. He noted larger towns and cities tend to self-insure on their own because they have the funds to do it. Councilman Still suggested to the Council accept this for the next three years. Councilman Still reiterated the full council should know how this operates as it is a large part of the budget.

Finance Report:

For the month of July 2020, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$686,481.17 as compared to July 2019 of \$783,793.86.

For the month of July 2020:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2020 the Borough received \$2,336.00 compared to \$1,259.50 in 2019

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$5,589.81 compared to \$17, 149.18 in 2019.

State Aid:

We received state aid in July 2020 of \$180.00 while we did not receive anything in July 2019.

Grants in Aid:

There were none received in July 2020 or in July 2019.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$678,375.36 in 2020 compared to \$765,385.18 in 2019.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2020 is \$5,658,347.71 as opposed to \$5,509, 184.14 in 2019.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: R. HATHAWAY      E. STILL**

Councilman Hathaway explained they will be meeting with Shop Rite next week to discuss their plans for expansion. The council was supplied a copy of the proposed project plans. There are still issues with the Wiltop Rd. parking area. Mr. Bucco explained the county is still not open so the search in reference to this area is not available to be done. There has been discussion among Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway and the Mayor and the Borough Engineer about sidewalks. He provided more information on this subject. Shop Rite is ready to move forward. The Mayor discussed what transpired during this meeting, Shop Rite understands the sidewalks are important for our town and are willing to work to that end.

The Funeral Home has decided not to move forward with their parking lot project.

Crown Point has suggested they are at a point where Council members will be invited to see the progress in the first building.



**PUBLIC SAFETY: J. SYLVESTER  
POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE**

**E. KOSTER**

**Ambulance Corps**

May

TOTAL CALLS: 48

TOTAL HOSPITAL TRIPS: 27

MILES TRAVELED: 892 miles

HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 135 hrs 33 mins

**Fire Department**

Incidents:25

Drills:28

Special Details

Calls: 10

Drills: 5

Meetings:3

Volunteers: 35

Hours: 164

Councilman Sylvester read two pieces of correspondence regarding the police department.

Fitzpatrick Contractors who did the project on Allen St. wrote a letter to the Council commending them for the Police Department and the professionalism of the Chief and his staff.

Email from Gerard Hardiman (fall victim call.) Officer Paige Mosner went above and beyond the call of duty at this call. She acted with professionalism. He asked for a formal commendation for this officer.

The Council is very grateful for our police department and proud of the work that they do.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**E. KOSTER**

**R. HATHAWAY**

Road Department: Watered flowers and filled pots twice in July ...Picked up 40 cy of grass, and 72 cy of brush ...Assisted with the County's paving, concrete, and signage efforts on Allen St...

Water Department: Implemented water restrictions for Borough residents until static and airline levels return to a normal range ....Repaired broken water line on Allen St during the paving project. ...

Buildings & Grounds: Sears air duct cleaning performed a cleaning of all municipal building duct

work ....Prepped work area for kayak ramp contractors at Arbolino Park  
....Hung new American Flags on Main St and Maple Ave....

Parks & Recreation: Clean up and cut brush at Indian Field .... Helped with concert preparation at DiRenzo Park including building the new gas grill, installing and updating social distancing signs and various protocol, new shed installation, and utilizing new message board for communications ....

Snow: Snow plow packet is being prepped for local contractors ....

Other: Mike Canfield performed the annual EJIF audit remotely with Rich Erikson ....Performed multiple ozone generator cleanings throughout the month...

Councilman Koster asked Mr. Hess to give an update on well #5. Mr. Hess explained we are still having an issue with it producing air. He provided a progress report.

#### **RECREATION:**

**J. ALBENSI**

**T. LAUREYS**

Tomorrow night is our final concert for the season with entertainment by The Symphonies. We have just about booked all of our concerts for next year with a few new entertainers.

1. Rec will finally be meeting in two weeks and will look to see what we can add to our calendar for this year
2. Looking into a pumpkin painting contest (no details as yet).
3. Will the Trunk or Treat and Holiday Parade be canceled for this year?
4. Shed -looking to add some shelving -can we or will shed be moved?
5. Field - Soccer has been using Indians Field. No other field requests to date.

He asked for the Council's thoughts on trunk or treat and the holiday parade. Councilman Sylvester suggested they plan for it and hope for the best. Mr. Albensi feels the holiday parade is the better possibility. The council agreed. He asked when the shed at DiRenzo Park can be moved. Councilman Hathaway is willing to help with this. He stated they will try to do it next week.

The soccer club has been using Indians Field.

The Mayor stated we will be opening up the tennis and basketball courts officially tomorrow morning.

Councilman Sylvester asked if there are ATV's at Indian's Field. He asked if there are cameras there. It was determined there are but they do not work properly. The Kayak launch is also going in.

**PUBLIC SERVICES: T. LAUREYS      J. ALBENSI**  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal

No report at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None presented.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. JIF Membership Renewal

Resolution will be ready for next meeting

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Council President: black top project on Herrick Rd.- Mr. Canfield DPW Superintendent explained the time frame and scope of the project.

Councilman Koster: The Scott air pack grant results are out, he wanted to know if we had heard anything about our application. The Mayor had several comments on this subject. Four legislators wrote letters in support.

Councilman Albensi thanked the council for dedicating the new shed to his father. The family appreciated it.

Councilman Hathaway stated Chief Blesson assisted along with the Engineer and Mr. Blakeslee to put a crosswalk to the school in the place that was originally intended.

Councilman Laureys: pleased to read the letters to the police department. He is grateful for the chief and his leadership as well as our officers. He had a question about well #5. When will the new development start using the water? There was discussion among the council on this matter. R. Hathaway stated they will probably start using water at the end of the year. They already have a waiting list for those who wish to move in. Mr. Hess gave detailed explanation on this issue.

Councilman Sylvester asked if the third fire hydrant for the Crown Point Redevelopment project that was demanded by the Fire Department and Fire Prevention has been installed. Mr. Blakeslee explained the plans that were approved by the Planning Board did not include it. There was further discussion on this subject. Councilman Hathaway gave several comments on this issue. There was further heated discussion on this subject. Councilman Still said this issue has to be fixed or the CO will not be approved. Mr. Blakeslee will contact Mr. Rasmussen from Crown Point on this issue.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution 2020- 88- A Resolution Authorizing a Negotiated Contract for the Construction of ADA Compliant Upgrades to The Front Door of The Municipal Building and Improvements to The Parking Lot

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Resolution 2020- 89- A Resolution of The Borough Council of The Borough of Netcong Authorizing a Contract with Planet Networks, Inc. For Joint Use of Telephone Poles in The Public Right-Of-Way

Mr. Bucco stated this should be tabled. There are changes that need to be made to the agreement.

The Mayor made several comments on this issue.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. Resolution 2020- 90- A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Letter Agreement with CSC TKR, LLC, D/B/A Cablevision of Morris, Supplementing the Grant of Franchise Renewal with the Cable Company

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

## **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2020-17** - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 226 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Netcong Entitled "Property, Abandoned" Which Shall Be Re-Entitled, "Registration of Foreclosing Mortgaged Property and Vacant Property"

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2020-17 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes      No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2020-17 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes      No: Councilman Laureys

2. **Ordinance 2020-18** - An Ordinance Granting Municipal Consent for The Operation of a Cable Television System Within the Borough of Netcong, New Jersey To CSC TKR, LLC D/B/A Cablevision of Morris

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2020-18 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance # 2020-18 on First reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6Yes

## **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

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

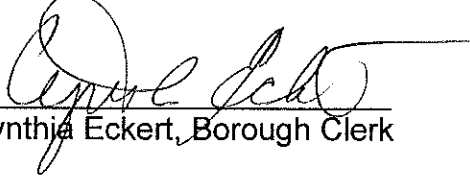
**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session this evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:58PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk