

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk. Also in attendance via conference call was Police Chief Blesson. Mr. Bucco, Borough Attorney arrived at 7:38pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Kirchman, Koclas Dr., was concerned about the noise at Arbolino Park every night. He would like to know what can be done about it. Mr. Blakeslee stated the Police Chief has been notified and rules will be enforced. Mr. Kirchman asked if the park could be locked each evening. He also asked if signs could be posted in reference to loud music and foul language. The Police Chief said he will have his officers at the park every half an hour or so to monitor the situation. He suggested a gate be put up and locked. Mr. Kirchman said parking on the street is another issue. The Chief reiterated that he will have his officers monitoring the situation there daily. Mr. Kirchman asked if the Police Chief had seen the video that they took. He also suggested there is a telephone pole with bright lights which are on all night that encourages the kids to stay later than they

should. Councilman Sylvester stated we should lock the gates at dusk to start and see if that is effective. The Mayor agreed. The Mayor explained that the lights are there for security purposes. Mr. Kirchman was happy to hear that the parks could be closed at dusk. There was discussion among the Council on possible solutions to this problem. Councilman Hathaway asked that the police officers patrol this area often and ask these young people to be careful of their language. Councilman Hathaway suggested any auto violations could also be observed at that time Mr. Laureys was concerned about this. Mr. Bucco allayed Councilman Laurey's concern. Mr. Kirchman said the music played is filled with foul language which is offensive to families and unhealthy for small children to be hearing. Mr. Kirchman said anything that can be done would be appreciated. His wife is working from home at this time and this noise is distracting. Mr. Kirchman thanked the Mayor and Council for their time. The Chief of Police let Mr. Kirchman know he will have his officers patrol that area every half hour or so. He explained a gate is needed to the entrance of the park. DPW Superintendent suggested dusk is fine at this time of year but summer dusk hours will be until 9:00. There was further discussion on the particulars of the changes to be made.

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance Adoptions - 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 Read Ordinance 2020-17 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes.

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes Councilman Laureys: No

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-17 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

2. **Ordinance Adoptions – 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 Read Ordinance 2020-18 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-18 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Councilman Hathaway had a question about the trail grant regarding scaling back the bridge. Mr. Blakeslee stated it would be narrower and less ornate. Councilman Hathaway will not support the change in the width of the bridge as it needs to be large enough to accommodate bikes and pedestrians. Mr. Blakeslee will obtain the particulars/measurements for all the Council members. Councilman Hathaway would like the construction to be done right the first time. Mr. Blakeslee said the reason for the changes was cost. The Mayor was under the impression the size would be the same just less ornate. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject.

Councilman Hathaway asked about the tree ordinance. He asked a certain item be removed. He would not like the ordinance to allow a resident to cut down as many trees as they want. He also had an issue with a table in the ordinance showing the percentage of trees removed. Councilman Still is unsure about this ordinance. Mr. Bucco explained the particulars of the table to clarify. There was further discussion on this ordinance and the enforcement it would provide. Councilman Still provided his opinion on this ordinance and his concern about a similar ordinance from another town that is not very resident friendly. Councilman Laureys provided a commentary regarding experiences he has had with tree issues. Councilman Hathaway also related a scenario. There was lengthy discussion on this issue among the Council.

Mr. Blakeslee had one addition. He gave the Council information on the speed table locations. He said the Engineer suggested a 4-way stop on the intersection of Prospect St. and College Rd. Councilman Albensi agreed with this suggestion. Councilman Still made a comment on this 4-way stop. Councilman Hathaway suggested this 4-way stop would also be safer for the pedestrians in this area. Councilman Still had several comments on this subject. Councilman Hathaway said the Council would need to be sure this would not be inconvenient for the residents in this area. There was further discussion on this subject. There was discussion on the new stop sign on Stoll St. It was suggested we get a flashing light stop sign installed there since there are still people

running the stop sign. Councilman Hathaway would like to investigate the 4-way stop a bit further to make sure this is not going to inconvenience the residents in the area before giving approval. The Mayor asked if this would need to be changed in the ordinance. Mr. Bucco confirmed this would need an ordinance change.

Zoning Activity Report - Month of August, 2020

Zoning Inquires

- 7 Flanders – addition question, prepared and sent memo to Ted Dunne on nonconforming use, email to property owner.
- 88 Koclas Drive – Follow up discussion with owner – set appointment to inspect.
- 4-8 Ledgewood – Dance studio allowable? Yes.
- Wiltop Road – fence height, discussion about Planning Board application.
- Bank Street – can auto repair/customized auto work occur in the I-1 zone – advised to email a detailed description of the business and work to be performed.
- 35 Ledgewood Ave – can it be converted into a two-family home – no.
- 39-41 Main Street – multiple calls on property use/zoning
- Emails & phone calls regarding extension of temporary outside dining zoning permits.
- Assist with Planning Board meeting, discussion of Colucci application with various board members.
- Meeting with officials from Isolatek regarding alternate driveway (from Love Lane), with Mayor.
- 90 Stoll Street – Oil tank removal.
- 22 Wiltop Avenue – what type of permits needed for remodeling.

Zoning Permits Issued

- 7 Flanders Road – Add dormers to garage
- 7 Burt Street - Shed
- 20 Prospect Street – Pool
- 42 College Road - Pool

Zoning Inspections Conducted – all issued in June.

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

Zoning Inspection Conducted – Farm Animals

- Koclas Drive – found chickens in pen, issued verbal warning to remove in one week

Zoning Summons Issued

- 78 Koclas Drive – Construction of shed without zoning permit

Court – Zoning & Property Maintenance

- 8/17/20 – Kline/Frankle, Hubbard, Maisano

AUGUST 2020 – PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT

NOTICES FOR GRASS CUTTING

25 Carolyn Way
11 Koclas Dr.
95 Allen St.
33 Koclas Dr.
1 Barone St.
49 Stoll St.
92 Koclas Dr.
37 Koclas Dr.
111 Allen St.
89 Stoll St.
10 Hillside Ave.
97 Main St.
52 Allen St.
5 Brookside Rd.

JUNK & DEBRIS COMPLAINTS – NOTICES SENT

22 North St.

RENTAL INSPECTIONS/RESALE CERTIFICATE

90 Stoll St.
110 Stoll St. (2 Units)
116 Stoll St.
114 Stoll St. (2 Units)
112 Stoll St. (2 Units)
31 Dell Ave.
26 Maple Ave. (2 Units)
19 North St.
22 Ledgewood Ave.
39 Amendola Ave.
24 Ledgewood Ave.
34 Hillside Ave.
2 Locust St.
1 Water St.
82 Koclas Dr.
99 Wiltop Rd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

Councilman Still read the finance report.

For the month of August 2020, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,905,063.26 as compared to August 2019 of \$1,555,286.52.

For the month of August 2020:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2020 the Borough received \$1,869.50 compared to \$1,253.00 in 2019

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$1,910.97 compared to \$16,313.03 in 2019.

This large difference is attributed to COVID-19 since the courts were closed as well as lower interest rates.

State Aid:

We received state aid in 2020 of \$176,357.70 which is the same amount we received in 2019.

Grants in Aid:

There was a Grant in Aid of \$436.15 in 2020 and \$5,331.54 received in August 2019.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,724,488.94 in 2020 compared to \$1,555,286.52 in 2019.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2020 is \$7,563,410.97 as opposed to \$7,263,725.93 in 2019.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway asked if anyone had questions about the Shop Rite. Councilman Still stated they are now demolishing the houses on Down St. Councilman Hathaway said they have had their demolition permits for quite some time. They have not yet submitted firm plans to the Borough yet. There is concerned about the tax assessment on these demolished properties. He gave opinion on a possible solution to this problem with a financial agreement. There was discussion among the Council on what the actual plan for this redevelopment is going to be. The Mayor expressed concern about how a PILOT will be determined without a concise plan. There was further discussion on the subject of the PILOT. Councilman Laureys asked about the size of the building and possible parking issues. Councilman Hathaway stated the parking requirements have been met. There was discussion regarding the current store design. It appears to be 60% warehouse and 40% retail.

Councilman Hathaway offered that there is a possible grant available that could benefit the Borough. Sidewalks, town center refurbish or a trail may be a possible project that could be funded under this grant. Councilman Still asked if we could get wires underground for the town center. Mr. Blakeslee said our engineer suggested replacing

the current light poles on Main St. with poles that have brackets for banners, electric for Christmas lights and speakers to play music. Councilman Hathaway would like our engineer to work on this grant. Councilman Laureys asked about the street light at the end of Down St. Councilman Hathaway provided additional information on this subject.

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

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Councilman Sylvester read the Police Dept. report. He noted activity has increased dramatically.

Total Calls: 381 in August

There was some discussion last month about a 3rd fire hydrant at 34 Bank St. Councilman Sylvester gave details on this subject. After speaking with our professionals, it was determined a 3rd fire hydrant would not be necessary. Councilman Sylvester agreed this should remain with two fire hydrants not three.

**Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:**

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Councilman Koster read the DPW report and the water log report. Councilman Koster asked if there were any changes to well #5. Mr Canfield stated there were no changes at this time. Mr. Blakeslee will follow up on this with Mr. Rushke, Borough Engineer.

D.P.W. Monthly Report September 2020

Road Department: Install new fire lane signs Provided 2 days of emergency brush pick up after tropical storm Picked up 32 cy of grass and 44 cy of brush

Water Department: Performed water service disconnect at 59 Wiltop Rd. as part of Shop Rite expansion Performed 3rd qtr meter readings Repaired bad chlorination at well 1 Replaced 25 ft of 8 in water main on Bank St. with assistance from Salmon Bros Repaired a service line leak at 95 Stoll St.

Buildings & Grounds: Re-configured file cabinets at Boro Hall Performed a clean up behind the Municipal building and alongside the day care center

Parks & Recreation: Prepped basketball and tennis courts for grand opening Relocated new shed at DiRenzo Park, will be regrading around the shed and planting grass Clean up Arbolino Park infield and areas around dugouts

Recreation:

J. Albensi

T. Laureys

Councilman Still asked if we are getting 3 signs now. Councilman Hathaway commented we should be honoring those who served on the Council and provided

related details. He feels we should also have a sign at Indians Field with instructions about the use of the field. He feels we should take care of all signs needed in our parks and fields as well as our recycle center. There was discussion regarding this subject. Councilman Hathaway would like to get four signs completed at the same time since they reflect important instructions and memorialization.

1. Just about all of our concerts have been booked for 2021 and will be posted on the 2021 town calendar.
2. Rec has decided not to pursue the Truck or Treat for this year. However, we will be hosting our annual Holiday Parade. There will not be any food/drinks at the firehouse or photos with Santa. We will be having the tree lighting and awards. We will only announce winners and then mail the award. All participants will receive their participation plaque while setting up on College Road. More details to follow. Face masks will be required for those in organized processions as well as tree lighting.
3. Shed - we are working on the memorial to be added to front/side of shed. Will also be picking up a shelving unit.
4. Recreation members have offered to paint the bathrooms to match the new shed. Awaiting the go ahead.

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

T. Laureys

J. Albeni

Councilman Laureys did not have a report at this time. The Mayor stated Mr. Benvenuto, the Dial a Ride driver is now taking people to doctor appointments. He is also taking temperatures and sanitizing between residents.

Councilman Still asked if we can extend the outdoor dining. There was discussion among the Council on this subject.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Hathaway asked about the status of the revaluation process. Mr. Blakeslee explained only exterior inspections have been completed. He discussed the process to

do the interior inspections which may begin after Labor Day. There was lengthy discussion among the Council on this subject.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to discuss the temporary lights at Indian's Field. He noted that Recreation asked if lights could be put on the field. He gave details on this subject. He felt the Council should make this decision. The Mayor asked what the responsibility is for the Borough. The response was that DPW would be moving them. There is no objection among the Council for these lights. Mr. Bucco asked who owns the lights. Councilman Hathaway responded. Mr. Canfield will double check with John Bauer from the recreation commission as to the particulars on this.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

There are tables at DiRenzo Park close to the street and there is always trash there. The Mayor asked if we have extra trash and recycle bins for this area. Councilman Hathaway stated residents are bringing their garbage to these cans which does not leave room for the people using the park to put their garbage in the cans. Councilman Still asked if this is littering or dumping. Mr. Blakeslee suggested we send letters to residents that they cannot use these cans for their household garbage.

Councilman Still asked if the resident is parking his trailer in the park. Councilman Hathaway said he is no longer parking there now. He would like to see us go back to have committee meetings before the first Thursday meeting to make it easier to meet. It is agreed it will be best to get back to a normal schedule.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 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.

Councilman Still made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Resolution 2020- 91-Resolution for Renewal of Membership in The Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.

Councilman Still made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Resolution 2020- 92- A Resolution Confirming the Costs for Abatement of Property Maintenance Code Violations by The Borough of Netcong.

Councilman Still made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution 2020-93- A Resolution Requesting BPU Mandate JCP&L Invest Substantially in Electricity Infrastructure in and Surrounding Morris County

Councilman Laureys had questions on this resolution. Mr. Bucco provided a commentary regarding Councilman Laureys questions.

Councilman Still made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution 2019-94- Resolution Urging the Secretary of State and the County Clerks to Utilize In-Person Machine Voting, in Conjunction with Mail-in Balloting, in the General Election of November, 2020 and in all Future Elections.

Councilman Still made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

None presented.

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 Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 9:17PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cindy Eckert, Borough Clerk