

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 1, 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**

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 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 Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

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

Mr. Tom Fury was present to talk about the Northwest Morris Canal Greenway Trail. Councilman Hathaway gave a brief description of this project and how he and Mr. Fury have been working on this for several years. This corridor would take bikers and hikers from Waterloo Village to Hopatcong.

Mr. Fury thanked the Council for the privilege to present this at a live meeting. Councilman Hathaway provide an introduction about the project. He explained the need to have a pre-application meeting. Mr. Fury went on to provide the distance this trail will cover and the benefits which one is to help promote Eco-tourism. He also provided details on the areas that are part of the northwest corridor and reviewed all the improvements made to the trail. He explained an application must be submitted by November 24<sup>th</sup> and presented a map of the overall plan as well as mileage and how green-way would follow the canal. He presented to the Council another map showing the potential trail areas. The Mayor asked what the challenging area would be.

Councilman Hathaway explained the trail would run through Roxbury were the canal used to run. He added that the trail would run beyond there and what had been

proposed several years ago and that many of the trails already exist. They just need to be connected. He stated we are already in the process of doing some of the trail in Netcong. The way finding from the train station and board walk would be the portion of the grant that would be needed for Netcong.

Mr. Fury stated they are trying to bring the main points in order to apply for this grant. The Mayor asked if there was a plan in place to improve the Brail Trail as it has been deteriorating. Councilman Hathaway gave an explanation on the plan. The Mayor made several comments regarding this. Councilman Laureys asked who will be using the trails and is this a wise investment? Councilman Hathaway answered that the Green-Way project is a project that has been well studied. There is already a large amount of funds invested to build this Green-Way. He gave great detail on this. Councilman Laureys also asked if there were surveys completed with the general public as well as hikers/bikers etc. He wanted to know if end users (the public) were queried. Mr. Fury could not answer that question. The Mayor gave several comments on how our parks and trails are already used and how this would be a benefit to the community. Councilman Hathaway agreed. He stated there is a wide interest in this project. Mr. Blakeslee made several comments on this subject. Councilman Hathaway continued with more comments regarding public interest. He said we want to make this area more accessible to bring more public members into our area as consumers. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Hathaway explained much volunteer work has been done for this but the time has come for funding to be available to further this project. The Mayor stated the money that has already been spent would not have been done if the trail was not desired by the public.

Councilman Hathaway listed communities who have already done construction on this project. The New Jersey Transportation Authority started this project. Mr. Fury said there are many reports available that he can provide to the Council. The cost to the borough would be minimal. There was further questioning by Councilman Laureys. Councilman Hathaway provided the answers to his questions.

A Motion to authorize Mr. Fury on behalf of the Borough to do a presentation for a pre-application meeting for the TAP Grant on or before October 9<sup>th</sup> was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 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 August 13, 2020.

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – September 3, 2020  
Regular Meeting – September 10, 2020

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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2. **Ordinance Adoptions:** None presented
3. **Correspondence** – None presented
4. **Old Business** – None presented.
5. **New Business-** None presented
6. **Resolution 2020-95** – Resolution of Members or Stockholders for United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant
7. **Resolution 2020 –96** – Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 for the Municipal Building Parking Lot and ADA Front Door Improvements Contract with Fairmount Services. LLC
8. **Resolution 2020-97-** Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 2 for the Municipal Building Parking Lot and ADA Front Door Improvements Contract with Fairmount Services, LLC.
9. Resolution **2020-98-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to All Seasons Property Maintenance, LLC for Assistance with Snow Plowing and Sanding Services

**Resolutions voted by block:**

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve **Resolution 2020-95 - Resolution 2020-98.**

Roll Call: 5 Yes

10. **Introduction – 2020-19** To Amend Chapter 268 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article IX “Stop Intersections” Section 26 “Stop Intersections Designated” of the Code of the Borough of Netcong Revising Designated Stop Intersections.

To be carried to the October 8th Meeting.

1. Introduction – Ordinance 2020-21 – Sidewalks

To be carried to the October 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

The Council President wished to discuss:

- the Police Department Secretary Position. Mrs. Fluke did not understand about the Family Leave Act. She would like to rescind her resignation and take

advantage of the leave act. He would like to have a discussion put on the agenda next week to consider a full-time secretary for the police department.

- The Koch Property: The Council President asked: What will be built to replace the burned building on Main St.? He does not want a large building placed there. Councilman Hathaway provided information about the committee meeting on this subject. The Mayor stated he does not want a 4-story building in this area. Councilman Hathaway stated he told them a 4 story will not be possible. Councilman Sylvester does not want to lose the charm or small-town feel. There was lengthy discussion among the Council on the subject of 4 story buildings on Main St. Councilman Sylvester stated the master plan states this town should remain as a small town. Councilman Hathaway stated the committee will not bring an unreasonable plan to the Council.

Mr. Blakeslee reviewed two examples of the assessment letters for submission to the residents. He wanted to know which one the Council would prefer. It was decided the softer version would be used.

- Scope of work TAP grant for the Main St. Improvement project. It will need to be approved with a resolution from the Council.
- Public Works Committee – signs for the parks: They would like Council approval. Councilman Hathaway said this is for all parks and recycle center. Mr. Blakeslee will send examples to Councilman Albensi for review.

It was decided to submit a resolution next week for approval.

Councilman Still wanted to discuss the amendment to Shop Rite redevelopment. A copy will be provided to the Council for review. Councilman Hathaway noted the details on the changes to the square footage as well as other related topics. Councilman Still stated they may move quickly because they want to get the distribution center up and running. The developer agreement will hopefully be ready for next week's meeting.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

The Mayor asked if Woodmont paid their bill. He noted they had until October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **PROCLAMATION**

There were no proclamations.

### **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: 5 Yes

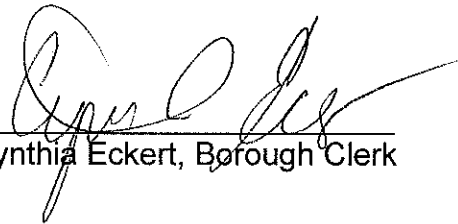
**CLOSED SESSION**

No closed session was held during this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Hathaway and passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk