

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2021 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 8, 2021.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 13, 2021 and emailing a copy to the Star Ledger on January 8, 2021.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented this evening.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mrs. Jennifer Santana, 20 Hillside Ave., was wondering about the clearing of the snow for College Rd. in front of the school. Would the town be able to push back the snow because it is causing a backup of traffic for school drop off? The Mayor stated we are aware of the condition of the streets. Councilman Hathaway stated there is no room for the cars to park to pick up the children. The Mayor said the DPW supervisor and police will take a look at it so we can come up with a solution. Mrs. Santana stated she realizes this is a temporary situation but would appreciate anything they could do.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2021-1-** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11, FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-1- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2021-1 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2021-2** - AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND NETCONG 201 URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR PROPERTIES KNOWN AS BLOCK 28, LOTS 15-21 PURSUANT TO THE LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 Et Seq.).

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-2- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2021-2 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

3. **Ordinance 2021-3** - ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 194 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG ENTITLED "STORMWATER CONTROL" TO REFLECT AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW JERSEY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RULES AT N.J.A.C. 7:8, ADOPTED MARCH 2, 2020

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-3- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2021-3 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board - 2020 Annual Report

The Mayor stated the Board is doing a great job despite the difficulties. Councilman Hathaway replied that due to the pandemic there is a carryover of funds this year. He made comments about the Lake Community.

2. Resignation Letter – Diana Katzenstein

A Motion to accept the resignation with regret was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee stated the AFS has been completed and put on the website. Regarding Mr. Ruschke's report on the Arbolino Park Trail Opening: this will be on the March agenda for approval of the contract. He gave some details on the bidding process. There was discussion about reimbursements from the recent nor'easter snow storm. Some details were provided on this subject.

The Mayor suggested we try to get money for the broken plow.

The cost of snow removal for Maple and Main came to \$10,000.00. Funds from the Snow Trust will be used.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Sylvester filed his report.

For the month of January 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$577,569.10 as compared to \$1,571,610.65 in January 2020.

For the month of January 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2021 the Borough received \$1,877.04 compared to \$1,517.45 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$19,869.35 in 2021 compared to \$27,912.23 in 2020.

This difference is from lower interest rates and lower Municipal Court Fees collected.

State Aid:

In 2021, we received nothing in state aid. There was no state aid received in 2020 either.

Grants in Aid:

There was \$1,297.98 received in Grants in Aid for 2021 and \$1,423.28 in 2020.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$554,524.73 in 2021 compared to \$1,540,757.69 in 2020.

This difference is due to the timing of payments from most of the mortgage companies.

The payment for 2020 was made in January while the payment in 2021 was made in February.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$577,569.10 as opposed to \$1,571,610.65 in 2020.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that they are taking action on the PILOT for Shop Rite. The appraisal for the parking area property is approx. \$100,000.00. This has been passed on to Shop Rite for review.

The Crown Walk has filed permit applications for footings so a groundbreaking should be coming soon.

Public Safety:

(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Councilman Koster read the reports and stated the new special will be at the shooting range for qualifications.

The Mayor commented there were 40-45 fireman being trained for ice safety training. He was very impressed with the 2-day training. Councilman Koster participated in the training and stated everyone was had done a great job going into the cold lake. Councilman Koster stated we now have 12 certified technicians for this. Councilman Koster said this course was very enlightening and informative.

Police Department:

Total Calls:420

Tickets Issued: 72

Netcong Fire Department:

Incidents: 9

Drills: 3

Admin/Equipment/Special Details: 3

Total Members Volunteered: 30

Total Time: 180 hours and 7 minutes

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Councilman Koster read the DPW report and water operator report. He also read a letter from DPW Superintendent thanking all those who helped remove snow and gave support during the nor'easter snow storm. Councilman Koster was also grateful for all who helped.

D.P.W. Monthly Report February 2021

Road Department: Installed stop signs that were missing from various intersections Repaired a catch basin at Prospect St. and Carmine D.r Put message boards into storage at the Recycle Center

Water Department: Performed monthly water sampling

Buildings & Grounds: Took down Christmas decorations from Borough Hall and Main and Maple lamp posts Started removing sideline posts from Indian Field Repaired a damaged outlet cover on the shed at DiRenzo Park Cleaned leaves from DiRenzo park and the Recycle Center Repaired a malfunctioning door lock at the Municipal Building

Snow: Wired new plow lights and set up the new spinner on the F-700 Prepared snow equipment for what became a very busy first week of February

Other: Performed multiple interviews for the open DPW positions

Recreation:

J. Albensi

T. Laureys

Councilman Albensi read his report and gave an overview of upcoming events.

Recreation's first meeting of the year included:

- a. Updates on concert contracts - only missing two
- b. Annual garage sale sign ups will take place at Boro Hall (Parking Lot) on Saturday April 3 from 10 -12.
- c. Rec is considering having photo's with the Easter Bunny - possibly at DiRenzo Park - date to be determined.

- d. We are in preliminary conversation regarding our year end Family Summer Bash. More to come.
- e. The goal posts are now down at Indians Field. The Soccer and Football programs will be working together to purchase movable goal posts.

Public Services: T. Laureys J. Albensi
(Human Services Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal)

Councilman Laureys read the Dial A Ride report.

Month: January 2021

Days of Service: 19

Miles: no entry

of Stops: 30

Nutrition: 0

Food Shopping: 0

of Meals on Wheels: 15

Medical Appointments: 30

Other Appointments: 0

People Using Services: 7 plus 15 meals

Cancels: 2

Denials: 0

Units: 60

Hours: no entry

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway wanted to echo what a great job the DPW and Police did dealing with the largest storm NJ has seen. None of the roads were ever impassable at any time during the storm.

There is an issue on Allen St. near Rosie's. Snow is falling off the roof into the sidewalk and roadway. It is a public safety hazard. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic there and something needs to be done. Councilman Hathaway wants to see something done. Mr. Blakeslee suggested we close the sidewalk in that area. There was brief discussion among the Council on this subject. The Mayor suggested we call the building owner to have this remedied. There was discussion about updating our code to make sure metal roofs have a guard to prevent slide.

Councilman Hathaway stated there was an informal meeting about salaried employees

be paid hourly overtime for the recent storm. He stated he talked with the DPW Superintendent who stated he would be making less money than those under him because he cannot be paid overtime. Councilman Hathaway feels we need to do something to compensate these employees who have gone above and beyond. He suggested a policy be done to pay these employees overtime in the event there is a reimbursement. Councilman Sylvester suggested maybe we attach it to anything that is created as a state of emergency. Mr. Bucco provided the details regarding the laws and reimbursements. Councilman Hathaway feels we need to come up with something different than what we have done in the past.

Mr. Anthony stated when there is FEMA money available every county has to meet a certain dollar threshold. Even though the state of the emergency is called it is not always a guarantee you will get FEMA money. He stated there were 2 different answers about salaried employees. If it is out of the scope of his regular duties, he can be paid. He gave other details about the laws, etc. He said any of these things can change and gave details of different scenarios that have happened. There was discussion among the council on the particulars of this subject. Mr. Anthony gave details on the process of payment. Councilman Hathaway asked the Borough Attorney what can be done. Mr. Bucco said research would have to be done on this before a motion should be made on this.

A Motion to have the attorney research and make a recommendation to remedy the issue of overtime to salaried employees for storms such as the Nor'easter just experienced was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Mr. Bucco asked for clarification on what the Council wants. He also asked Mr. Anthony, OEM manager, to provide him with the information needed.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2021-28** - Appoint Timothy Hess as Assistant Superintendent for Netcong Department of Public Works.
2. **Resolution 2021-29** – Establishing a List of Towing Operators and Associated Towing Fees in Accordance with Chapter 262, Towing, of the Borough of Netcong.
3. **Resolution 2021-30** – To Appoint Steven Bryant and Dan Mejorado as Department of Public Works Laborers.

A motion to approve the three ordinances above was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2021 - 4 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 223 "YARD WASTE COLLECTION"**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-4- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-4- on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Ordinance 2021-5 - 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" ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 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 Introduce Ordinance #2021-5 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Proclamations

The Mayor mentioned there are some proclamations in development.

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes


CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and moved by unanimous voice vote at 8:21PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk