

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 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

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 8, 2021.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the January 13, 2021 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 8, 2021.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk. Mr. Bucco attended via phone conference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented this evening.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PROCLAMATIONS

1. **Proclamation** – Recognizing the 100th Birthday of Marion Koert

**PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARIE KOERT**

***WHEREAS,** Longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity and experiences this individual brings to all; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Borough of Netcong recognizes with respect and admiration the contribution of senior citizens to our community; and*

***WHEREAS,** Marie Koert is a lifelong resident born and raised in Netcong. The youngest of 11 children. Marie belonged to hardworking immigrants who operated a bakery in town, feeding their community and beyond; and*

***WHEREAS,** along with her husband Martin, she raised seven children, four sons and three daughters. She is a loving Nanee, Gram, Nonee, Nana and GGMA to twenty-four grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Marie loves her family and community and cherishes each day surrounded by her loving family and friends; and*

***WHEREAS,** Marie is a 1938 graduate of Netcong High School and a graduate of St. Mary's nursing school in Passaic, NJ. She is a retired nurse having worked at St. Clare's Hospital in Denville, New Jersey for over 30 years. Marie was the neighborhood nurse lending a helping hand to whoever needed the loving care of a nurse. She is a breast cancer and COVID-19 survivor; and*

***WHEREAS,** Marie is a devout Roman Catholic and a long-time parishioner at St. Michael's Church.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that I, Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor of the Borough of Netcong and on behalf of the Netcong Council and the citizens of Netcong Borough, honor Marie Koert for her long life and prosperity, and wish her many more.*

2. Proclamation – Recognizing the 100th Birthday of Marie Rush

**PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE LATE MARION RUSH**

***WHEREAS,** Longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity and experiences this individual brings to all; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Borough of Netcong recognizes with respect and admiration the contribution of senior citizens to our community; and*

***WHEREAS,** Marion Rush was a long time Netcong resident born on October 21, 1920; and passed away on November 10, 2020, just after her 100th birthday; and*

***WHEREAS,** Marion was a 1938 graduate of Netcong High School who served in the stands at the football games for many years. She was a member of the Netcong Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and served as president for a year; and*

***WHEREAS,** Marion was a dedicated member of the Stanhope United Methodist Church located on Route 183 in Netcong where she served there as a first-grade Sunday School teacher, Board of Trustee president, Mission Chairperson, Communion Steward and Finance Committee member. She along with a former pastor created the churches community food pantry. She was also for many years a proud member of the United Methodist Women and served as president of that group. She was also named a Special Mission Recognition recipient for the United Methodist Women; and*

***WHEREAS,** Over the years Marion also served the community as a Boy Scout Den Leader, Classroom Mother for the Elementary School as well as working for the Morris County Elections Board for 50 years.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that I, Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor of the Borough of Netcong and on behalf of the Netcong Council and the citizens of Netcong Borough, honor the late Marion Rush for her long life and prosperity.*

Senator Bucco praised the two honored recipients.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Resolution #2021 – 35 - Resolution to Approve the 2021 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.

Councilman Laureys had a comment on the budget. The Mayor noted the figure stated was an estimate.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still to approve the resolution.
Roll Call: 4 Yes 1- No

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

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 Read Ordinance 2021-4 -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 Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2021-4 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. 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 AND COLUMBUS 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 Read Ordinance 2021-5 - by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2021-5 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Highlights:

- Mr. Blakeslee reported on a budget meeting and plans for a future meeting.
- Presentations for applications were made via virtual meeting.
- Mary Gallagher, new employee, started this week.
- Another employee, Jane, will be starting soon.

- On the 22nd there will be a meeting with the Planning Board on PB procedures.
- Info for New Jersey Transit regarding the Farmers Market was completed today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

For the month of February 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,875,760.56 as compared to \$852,023.49 in February 2020.

For the month of February 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2021 the Borough received \$11,568.75 compared to \$37,480.10 in 2020

This difference is a result of lower Construction Fees collected in 2020.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$4,748.62 in 2021 compared to \$13,273.41 in 2020.

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

State Aid:

There was no State Aid received in 2021 or in 2020.

Grants in Aid:

There was \$2,880.46 received in Grants in Aid for 2021 and nothing in 2020.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,856,562.73 in 2021 compared to \$801,269.98 in 2020.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$2,453,359.12 as opposed to \$2,423,634.14 in 2020.

Councilman Still stated this will be the tightest budget ever completed.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

- Crown Walk project has begun. There is a good influx with occupants
- Pocket Book factory is on the way.
- Still working with Shop Rite
- Having difficulty with Byram relationship regarding regulation. The contract can be ended in August per Mr. Blakeslee. The Mayor thought it was cancel-able in 30 or 60 days in writing. Councilman Hathaway feels this is costing Netcong. The Food Desert is going to be an issue because of this. Mr. Blakeslee commented on other shared service possibilities.

The Council continued discussion regarding this concern.

Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Fire Department:

Incidents:3

Drills: 4

Admin/equipment/Special Details: 3

Total Members Volunteered: 38

Total Time: 142 Hours and 43 Minutes

Police Department:

Total Calls: 429

Motor Vehicle Summons: 57

Councilman Sylvester discussed a meeting he had with the Chief and others regarding personnel and new structure.

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report March 2021

Road Department: Cold patch large pot holes

Water Department: Performed February meter readings

Snow: Every day in February except for two, we performed snow related tasks including plowing, salting, repairs, sidewalk clearing, snow removal from intersections, parking lots, and dead ends. We also removed snow from Main St, Maple Ave, and College Rd. We also cleared Fire Lanes and widened roads where possible

Other: The Department of Public Works hired 2 new employees in February and began on the job training as well as watching multiple safety videos recommended by the MEL I'd like to thank Chief Koster and the members of our 2 Fire Depts. for their assistance in clearing fire hydrants throughout the Borough

Recreation:

J. Albensi

T. Laureys

- Moving forward with Easter bunny at the park.
- Garage sale sign ups will be at the parking lot on April 8.
- There are two concerts contracted.

Public Services:

T. Laureys

J. Albensi

(Human Services Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal)

For February, 2021

Days of Service: 15

Miles: 269

Number of Stops: 15

Nutrition: 0

Food Shopping: 0

Number of Meals on Wheels: 15

Medical Appointments: 15

Other Appointments: 0

People Using services: 6 +15 for Meals

Cancels: 1

Denials: 0

Units: 34

Hours: 43.5

Additional Notes: Snow-days/Personal Day

There was concern expressed about Councilman Laureys direct involvement with this committee.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway discussed FEMA and compensation for employees' extra activities regarding public utilities.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments.

RESOLUTIONS

None presented.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Ordinance 2021-6 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE CORP OF STANHOPE/NETCONG'S "COIN

DROP" ON JUNE 4TH, JUNE 5TH 2021 AND ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, AND SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2021 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-6 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-6 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Wayne Anthony had a question about the sidewalk ordinance that was recently passed. The Mayor stated that any curb-line had to have a sidewalk. He also mentioned a 70% return from FEMA for storm relief.

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

Roll Call: 5

CLOSED SESSION

None held this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:22PM.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk