

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD APRIL 1, 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 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. Michael Murphy, 27 Fox Hill Rd. Andover, is here on behalf of the Lenape Valley Soccer Club. He provided background information regarding the executive board of the Soccer Club. Mr. Walter Barbero is the president. Ms. Tammi Petersen is vice president starting in June of this year. Ms. Katherine Mordan is the treasurer. Mr. Dave Rupert will be recording secretary starting in June 2021.

He would like to let the Council know soccer is now year round unlike when he was young. He explained how youth soccer has grown. US soccer federation has developed an elite academy where the costs have been carried by the players. He explained the average costs for elite and travel clubs. These were developed as a pathway to the national teams. Lenape Valley is a travel soccer club. The cost for our club is \$600.00. You must be licensed to have a club in NJ. He listed all the requirements to maintain a club. The club spent \$16,000.00 on trainers last year. He went on to explain the costs incurred to run the club. The hometown clubs like Lenape Valley are becoming a thing of the past as the expense is too great. He continued to explain the stats on the household incomes and soccer players. It is difficult for single parents to afford to pay for their children to play soccer. He stated this club is important to be available for the

less fortunate. The club is struggling to keep going due to the high costs. He mentioned how several donors have come forward to supply uniforms etc. He said the NY Red Bulls have stepped up to help. They are looking for help from the Council. Soccer is not the same as baseball or football. This is a non-profit business. They need the backing of a community like Netcong and need access to fields year round. They have invested money in Indian's Field and would like to add fields there and host tournaments. It will help to bring people into our community. The Mayor asked for a point. He is asking the Borough to support this program. The Mayor stated we are already giving access to Indian's Field. They are asking for year round access to Indian's Field. Councilman Albensi stated we already have requests for use at the Indian's Field. He is requesting they can use the field earlier than the April 1st opening. The Mayor stated we have a recreation commission who runs the field use. Mr. Murphy wanted to attend tonight to open up communication with the Borough. The soccer club will not be able to operate without fields. Councilman Hathaway stated the club is hoping the Borough would be able to use the fields when they are not normally being used. He has already discussed with Councilman Albensi about the football usage. They are wanting to ask for seasonal consideration to use the field. Councilman Still stated the Recreation Commission should be the deciding factor as well as the Superintendent of the DPW. Councilman Sylvester asked if they have asked the other towns for support as well. Mr. Murphy stated 'no, not yet' as Indian's Field is a prime location for soccer. Byram is not flexible in allowing off season usage. Councilman Albensi asked how much more time is needed. The Mayor stated Arbolino Park should be for baseball only. Councilman Albensi said it can be something to be considered for next season. Councilman Albensi stated he will bring it back to the recreation meeting he doesn't see why they can't work with the club. Mr. Murphy thanked the Council for their time.

Rebekah Diehl, 16 Allen Terrace, sent a letter several weeks ago about the speeding cars on Allen Terrace and if speed bumps would be considered. Mr. Blakeslee explained the contents of the letter and his response to it. Councilman Sylvester asked if we would survey the residents on the street before we do the bumps to be sure the residents on the street are interested in having them. Councilman Still stated we could change Allen Terrace to a one way street but the state may not give permission for that as this has been visited in the past. There was discussion among the Council on this matter. Mr. Blakeslee said he would speak with the Borough Engineer on this subject. Ms. Diehl stated parking would still be needed on Allen Terrace. She stated the police have been patrolling in the area which she really appreciates. Mr. Blakeslee will compile a survey.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 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 April 8, 2021.

1 Approve Minutes

- **Minutes** – March 4, 2021
- **Minutes** – March 11, 2021

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2 Introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

3 Ordinance Introduction – Ordinance 2021-7- to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

4 Resolutions

Resolution 2021-39- Self-Examination of the 2021 Budget

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

Resolution 2021-40- Requesting Permission from DLGS for Use of a Three-Year Average for Revenue Anticipation for 2021

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

Resolution 2021-41- Governing Body Certification of Compliance with The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

Resolution 2021-42– Introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

Resolution #2021 - 43 - Resolution Approving the Property Assessments for the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

Resolution #2021 - 44 – Approving the Introduction of the 2021 Budget of the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District and Authorizing a Public Hearing to Be Held Thereon

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

5 Public Hearing on the SID Assessments

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

6 Ordinance Adoptions

Ordinance Adoption - **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

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

7 Correspondence – Letter Mr. Hugo Dezio – Dog Walkers

The Mayor stated this seems to be a town wide problem. Councilman Hathaway stated he sees it as well when he is walking his children to school. He stated he has offenders on camera by his house. Mr. Blakeslee stated he believes it is in our ordinance. He will look into this. Councilman Still stated we can't necessarily write a ticket for someone who did not clean up after their dog. Councilman Laureys was surprised to find the police cannot do much about this. The police would have to actually see it happening to give a summons. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Laureys suggested we send a letter to remind them to clean up after their dog. Mr. Blakeslee stated he spoke with the police chief about conducting a dog census. Mr. Blakeslee explained what this entailed. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject. A letter will be enclosed in the next water bill reminding people to clean up after their dog.

8 Old Business- Cannabis Legislation

Mr. Blakeslee suggested we postpone discussion until Mr. Bucco is present. Councilman Sylvester stated we are on a timeline and need to get this done. He asked Mr. Bucco be prepared next week. The Mayor asked this be put on the agenda next week for discussion and a vote.

9 New Business- None presented.

10 Additional Resolutions

Resolution 2021-36 – USDA Resolution of Members and Stockholders

Resolution 2021- 37- To Appoint Michael Thierault DPW Laborer

Resolution 2021-38 – To Approve 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the three above mentioned resolutions.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

11 Ordinance Introductions

Ordinance Introduction –Ordinance 2021-8 -Fixing the Salaries of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

Ordinance Introduction – Ordinance 2021-9 - Capital Ordinance (Pending)

This will be carried to the April 8th meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: noted that the introduction to the Salary ordinance is just ranges.

Councilman Sylvester – Roxbury ordinances- goes from the church behind PILOT down to Rt. 80 and the other project is on the other side of route 46. Councilman Hathaway stated they will be butting up against his Roxbury property. There was lengthy discussion among the Council on Roxbury's reasons for doing this. It was discussed to have Mr Semrau send a response that this type of project does not benefit our town. There was further discussion on this topic as well as the possible warehouse project. Councilman Still stated we should be writing a strong letter and that it should be intermingled with low income and regular housing. Councilman Laureys asked about possible flooding with these developments. There was discussion on this subject as well. The Mayor stated they will have to adhere to the storm water guidelines. Mr. Blakeslee suggested we have our planner review the ordinance.

Councilman Sylvester made a motion to have Paul Philips review these ordinances and send a report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

PROCLAMATION

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


