

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MAY 13, 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 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 Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes Presented

Netcong Board of Education Budget Presentation

Kate Walsh and Paul Stabile came to present their budget for next year. Ms. Walsh provided details on the changes and improvements to the school and staff. They put air purification systems in each of the classrooms for safety due to Covid. All students were eligible for free breakfast and lunch. They purchased hot spots to assure students would be able to learn remotely. She continued to review the accomplishments for the 2020-2021 school year. She stated the goals for next year's budget. Reinstating teacher position which will bring them back to full staff. She stated there are some variables in aid, special ed costs etc. She gave an overview of their shared services Mr. Stabile gave review of the numbers/expenditures. Including the debt service. He then went on to explain the upcoming capital projects. He gave the tax impact as well. Ms. Walsh then gave a detailed recap of the budget.

Mayor Nametko had a question about the special need children and if there is a shared service available. She stated other towns have equipped programs and if necessary our children may be approved for that school but our district has to pay tuition for these services. There was further discussion on this issue. Ms. Walsh stated they must pay tuition, a shared service is not allowed due to regulations. The council had no further questions. Ms. Walsh thanked the council for their time.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Seeing no one stepping forward to speak, a Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Valerie Dolan, Auditor – Jason Gabloff, Cfo - Review Of Budget

Mrs. Dolan was attending via zoom to give highlights of the budget and reasons for a small increase. She stated this is a sound budget that still provides all needs. Average homeowner will see \$48.00 increase for the year.

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

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-7- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-7 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 BUDGET

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

Resolution 2021-45 - To Read the 2021 Budget by Title Only

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Resolution 2021-46- To Adopt the 2021 Budget.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 SID BUDGET

A Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still:

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution #2021-47 – A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the 2021 Budget of The Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District.

A Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still:

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

Ordinance 2021-8-AN ORDINANCE 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 2021-8 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-8 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Public Notice – 62 Old Ledgewood Rd. Flanders NJ
2. Public Notice – FJZ Properties
3. Councilman Hathaway asked to notice the lake Board on this issue
4. Letter of Resignation – Michael A. Pellek, Fire Inspector

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee requested direction for 2 issues:

1. **2022 NJ Dot local aid grants**

There were 3 recommendations he wanted to know if anyone has suggestions or strong feelings on this. The Mayor feels there is more traffic on Koclas Dr. compared to upper Center St. The engineer had no priority on these 3 projects. There was discussion among the council on this issue. Councilman Hathaway stated we need to be careful to set a precedence by saying yes to certain issues. 88 Koclas seems to have drainage running into the street. They feel this should be repaired by the homeowner not the town. The borough has said no to other homeowners for a similar issue. There was discussion about storm drains and how to tie into them. Mr. Canfield, DPW Superintendent gave details on the procedures for tying in to these storm drains. Councilman Koster stated the Railroad Ave. incident was different than the Koclas Dr. one. There was further discussion on this issue.

Councilman Hathaway stated again he feels this is the resident's problem not the Borough. Councilman Laureys, had questions about the issue on tying in to the basins. There was discussion on the procedure for this. There was further discussion among the council on this issue. Councilman Koster stated we may have to have our engineer take a look at this. Councilman Sylvester said he is not saying we need to do this for them but maybe we can give them some direction. There was discussion on Barone St. and how they have the same issue with drainage. Councilman Hathaway suggested we ask for drainage at this location and this would be a better choice. Mr. Canfield stated he suggested upper Center because since the project several years ago there are large pot holes that are quite dangerous. Mr. Blakeslee stated we usually put in for several so we will do that this year.

2. **Green infrastructure grant program.** Mr. Blakeslee provided the details.

Things such as bio swails, recharge basins etc. Councilman Hathaway stated what he would be involved with and provided details on what would be involved that could help mitigate some of the issues with the water coming off of route 80. Mr. Blakeslee requested permission to send a letter for this. Mr. Blakeslee suggested the 'park and ride' by the lake might be another area that we could do impervious paving.

A Motion to allow Mr. Blakeslee to send a letter of full support was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

The Council also discussed the installation of the message boards at the parks and the requirement to compose the honorary signs to finish this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & INSURANCE: E. STILL J. SYLVESTER

For the month of April 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,580,500.71 as compared to \$517,266.90 in April 2020.

For the month of April 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2021 the Borough received \$9,223.31 compared to \$7,101.55 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$9,353.30 in 2021 compared to \$6,839.57 in 2020.

State Aid:

There was \$39,927.17 in State Aid received for 2021 and none in 2020.

Grants in Aid:

There were no Grants in Aid received for 2021 or 2020.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,521,996.93 in 2021 compared to \$503,325.78 in 2020.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$4,169,327.75 as opposed to \$3,126,791.01 in 2020.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: R. HATHAWAY E. STILL

Pocketbook Factory rendering of the final version which was decided, in the Economic Committee, that this was closer to the project. Councilman Hathaway provided details regarding changes that the engineer picked up on and the committee met with the developer to come to an agreement even though this is not 'as is.' There was discussion to be certain the fire stipulations were not changed. Councilman Hathaway stated that has not changed it is the facade of the building. This was the only change. There was further discussion regarding the details of this project.

Councilman Hathaway asked for a vote to approve this project rendering as changed.

A motion to approve this project rendering as changed was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

**PUBLIC SAFETY:
(POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE)**

J. SYLVESTER

E. KOSTER

Ambulance Corps (March)

Total Call: 56

Total Hospital Trips: 36

Total Patients: 44

Total Miles: 1057

Hours Volunteered: 150 Hours, 12 minutes

Police Dept.

Total Calls: 663

Motor Vehicle Summons: 8

Fire Department (April)

Incidents Total 17 26.68

Drills Total 26 127

Admin. /Equipment/ Special Details Volunteers: 32

Hours: 43.5

Total: 37 Volunteers

Hours:197hrs, 11min.

Councilman Sylvester discussed the details of a meeting earlier this week with the Fire Prevention Bureau. He gave details on these changes. It was decided to come up with an ordinance to make these changes. Our current policies do not meet the current standards. Councilman Sylvester read the detailed resignation letter from Mr. Michael Pellek, Fire Inspector for the Borough of Netcong.

Councilman Sylvester related details of the issues discussed at this meeting. Councilman Sylvester made it clear there would not be a budget line item for this department. Mr. Bucco will write the ordinance. The feels will not be large. Councilman Laureys asked about oxygen tanks and why they should be registered. There was discussion about the particulars of this subject.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

E. KOSTER

R. HATHAWAY

Road Department: Picked up 56 cu yds of leaves, 48 cu yds of brush, and 16 cu yds of grass Prepared all lawn cutting equipment and started cutting Borough properties Repaired a broken catch basin on the corner of Jenny Lind and Bank St Performed hot patch repairs on storm drains and pot holes ...

Water Department: Performed April hydrant flushing ...

Recycling: The Borough's shred event was held on April 24'h.....

Buildings & Grounds: Installed Main St park benches Hung Welcome to Netcong banners Repaired damaged gutters at FH 2 New Welcome to Netcong signs were

Days of Service: 19
Miles: 861
Number of stops: 16
Nutrition: 0
Food Shopping: 0
Number of meals on wheels: 17
Medical Appointments: 16
Other Appointments: 0
People using Services: 6 + 17 meals
Cancels: 0
Denials: 0
Units: 32
Hours: 67

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund 2021 Conservation Action Grant
Addressed under privilege of the floor.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had no comments at this time.

Councilman Koster – Memorial Day Fire Dept. will assemble at school for pictures then assemble at Co. #1. They will proceed to the honor board by Borough to lay wreath at 11:00. Mr. Bucco suggested a PA system should be acquired so speakers can be heard. There will be refreshments

Councilman Koster also discussed Koclas Dr. – The weeds growing into the road again. Councilman Koster suggested we cut back the weeds since the state will not maintain it. He is concerned that walkers will not be able to use the area safely. Councilman Hathaway commented regarding this issue. Mr. Bucco stated a letter should be sent to the state that this is a public safety issue and noted that if they do nothing, they could be held liable. There was discussion among the Council on this issue.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2021- 48-** Authorizing the Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills
2. **Resolution 2021-49-** To Appoint Thomas Patamia as Alternate Crossing Guard
3. **Resolution 2021-50-** Salary Resolution
4. **Resolution 2021-51-** Resolution Endorsing Fair Elections
5. **Resolution 2021-52-** Awarding a Contract to ADG Contracting, Corp., Trading as Crossroads Paving for the Water Main Improvement Project on Elm Street in the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey
6. **Resolution 2021-53-** Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to Renew Membership Therein for the Period of October 1, 2021 Through September 30, 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve all resolutions noted above with the exception of 2021-49.
 Roll Call: 6 Yes

Resolution 2021-49: Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Hathaway

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2021-9 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 194 “LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG TO MAKE CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS PROHIBITED USES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG.**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-9 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.
 Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-9 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.
 Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2021 – 10 - Ordinance 2021-10 – AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF WILTOP RD. OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-10 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
 Roll Call: 5 No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-10 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 No: Councilman Laureys

3. **Ordinance 2021-11** – AN ORDINANCE SELLING A PORTION OF WILTOP RD TO RNETCO SHOP RITE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-11 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-11 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 No: Councilman Laureys

4. **Ordinance 2021-12** – To Amend Chapter 105, Animals, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong to Include a New Article IV Establishing Responsibilities for Animal Owners and Prohibiting Animal Cruelty

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-12 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-12 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. **Capital Ordinance 2021-13** – CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION OF A MASON DUMP TRUCK IN, BY AND FOR THE SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$41,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

A Motion to Introduce Capital Ordinance #2021-13 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Capital Ordinance #2021-13 on First Reading was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Bond Ordinance 2021-14** - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$350,000 TO PAY

THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A Motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance #2021-14 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2021-14 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

7. **Bond Ordinance 2021-15** – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$339,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE FEDERAL GRANTS, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A Motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance #2021-15 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2021-15 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

8. **Ordinance 2021-16** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 "POLICE DEPARTMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AMENDING PROCEDURES FOR HIRING AND PROMOTIONS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-16 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-16 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Albeni and seconded by Councilman Koster.
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 Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

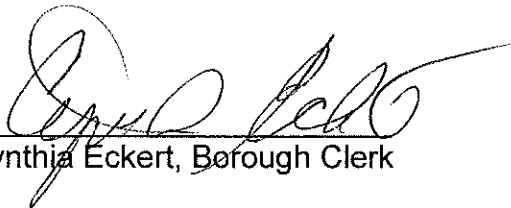
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:58PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk