

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 10, 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 were presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Tim Grogan, 89 Stoll St., spoke during the Public Session last Thursday complaining about noise at the Tony Tank property. He was told to come back to see what has been resolved. The mayor asked if the music has continued. Mr. Grogan said no. Mr. Grogan stated the noise was much improved this week. If it stays this way the Council will not hear from him again. He thanked Mr. Blakeslee. Councilman Sylvester stated we have given them ample time to make changes. He wants them to have to go in front of the planning board. Mr. Bucco, borough attorney, will make comments on this. Councilman Sylvester stated it is not the Tony Tank property it is the other properties as well. Councilman Hathaway asked we wait to have this discussion when Mr. Bucco arrives.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ANNUAL AUDIT

VALERIE DOLAN – TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mrs. Dolan stepped forward to give some highlights on the in house audit this year. Tax Collection rate was up from the previous year. There was increase in water fund balance which is good because we must start paying back debt service. She highlighted the borough debt. She provided details on the bond market. She continued with discussing usual segregation of duties recommendation and need for cancellation of old capital ordinances. This will clean up the capital and make room to pay debt. The Mayor asked about reserves. Storm recovery \$55,000.00, sick and accrued vacation trust \$96,000.00. General reserve: \$1,100,00.00. The Mayor and Council thanked Mrs. Dolan for her time.

1. **Resolution #2021-56** -Certification of the Annual Audit.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Resolution #2021-57** -To Approve the 2020 Corrective Action Plan.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

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 Read Ordinance 2021-9 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to close the public session was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2021-10** - An Ordinance to Vacate a Portion of Wiltop Road In The Borough Netcong, County Of Morris, And State Of New Jersey.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-10 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-10 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

3. **Ordinance 2021-11** - An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of Certain Property Owned By The Borough Of Netcong, County Of Morris, And State Of New Jersey, Pursuant To The Local Lands And Building Law.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-11 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-11 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

4. **Ordinance 2021-12** - An Ordinance 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 Read Ordinance 2021-12 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-12 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

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 Read Capital Ordinance 2021-13 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Capital Ordinance 2021-13 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

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 Read Bond Ordinance 2021-14 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 the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance 2021-14 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. **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 Read Bond Ordinance 2021-15 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 Bond Ordinance 2021-15 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

7. **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 Read Ordinance 2021-16 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-16 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee asked if we can entertain Mr. Grogan since Mr. Bucco is now here. Mr. Grogan stepped forward as the mayor reopened the public portion of the meeting. Mr. Bucco stated he did speak with Mr. Blakeslee about this along with the band playing. Mr. Grogan stated the band music is the least of the problems. He stated the truck and work noise is too much including motor cycle gangs. Mr. Bucco explained it is an industrial zone and you need to expect some noise in the area. He also noted there was a prior non-conforming use. Mr. Grogan explained originally this was a tank company. Councilman Sylvester explained what is going on there now is not agreed to by the council. He

wanted to know if we can send them to the planning board for a site plan. Mr. Bucco stated if there is a significant change in use then you can ask them to come to the board. Councilman Hathaway stated the way other planning boards do this is take google map pictures previously and what is there now. Councilman Sylvester wants to know why they have not asked for the increase and change in usage. Mr. Bucco explained what can be accepted and what cannot. If there is significant change of use, they would have to come to the planning board. Mr. Bucco asked if there are multiple businesses on these properties. Mr. Blakeslee has been asking that the owner send a list of the businesses that are renting from him each year. Councilman Hathaway thought there was an increase in usage. Mr. Blakeslee stated there are 5 different businesses renting the properties at this time. The mayor asked how long Mr. Grogan has lived on Stoll St. He stated over 30 years. Mr. Bucco asked if they are servicing trucks on this property? The mayor stated the DEP has already issued violations for this property. Mr. Blakeslee read the ordinance that states the uses for an industrial area. Mr. Bucco stated they are clearly allowed manufacturing and shipping. Mr. Grogan stated they are not bringing or taking anything, they are parking their dump trucks there. Mr. Bucco stated the issue here seems to be the outdoor storage. Mr. Bucco stated it seems the property needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Bucco suggested the borough bring the 2 owners in and discuss with them the situation and explain to them if they don't clean up the property the borough will issue summons. Mr. Bucco also stated a site plan could be expected. Mr. Grogan stated the problem is the noise on the nights and weekends. Councilman Hathaway stated this is a problem in Netcong which needs to be addressed. He mentioned other areas in town. Mr. Blakeslee stated he has already taken pictures and spoken to the owners of the property and the owners have stated that they are being 'picked on.' Councilman Laureys asked if there are times of operation in the industrial zones. Mr. Blakeslee explained this is in the general ordinance not in the industrial ordinance. This is why the site plan might be the way to go as the hours could be included in the site plan which would give more control of the property. Mr. Bucco stated what needs to be done is a summons needs to be issued and they will end up in front of the planning board. There was further discussion on this issue among the council as well as who owns each portion of this property. The Council questioned why the motorcycles are in that area and what they are doing. Council discussion continued. Councilman Hathaway asked if there are any DOT stops being done by the police. Councilman Albensi stated the State Troopers do this. Councilman Hathaway stated setting up a DOT check would work. It was suggested the State Police be asked to do DOT checks. The mayor stated we need to write a ticket. Councilman Koster asked what type of ticket should be written. Mr. Bucco suggested several reasons for delivering a ticket. Mr. Blakeslee stated the only zoning permit he has issued was for the Assumption Society. Councilman Still stated we shouldn't be just writing tickets. Councilman Hathaway stated we need to get a google earth shot then and now. Mr. Bucco stated we need to put items together to show them that the property is not the same as it used to be and bring the owners in to discuss that the property has changed and they need to have a site plan. Mr. Bucco said we need before and after pictures. Mr. Blakeslee will ask the Borough engineer to help with this. Councilman Still stated we still need to know why motorcycles are speeding down the road in that area. Mr. Grogan said there are motorcycles every single day. Mr. Blakeslee stated he has notified the police to monitor this situation. Mr. Grogan said the motorcycles are there every day. Mr. Grogan stated when the police come, they say they can't do anything. Mr. Bucco offered that Mr. Blakeslee will take the first step and if they don't comply, they will be issued summons. Councilman Still said the

first thing they should be told is no motorcycles or vehicle repairs. Mr. Grogan thanked the council for their time.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Councilman Still asked a question about last week's meeting. The council spent some time discussing the streets, water issues and enforcement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & INSURANCE:

E. STILL

J. SYLVESTER

Councilman Still had one question: why was there a cut in the recreation budget. This caused a problem because the president was told she would have a 2% increase and was not told there would be cuts instead. She was not notified.

For the month of May 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$884,041.04 as compared to \$1,744,956.13 in May 2020.

For the month of May 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated I MRNA):

In 2021 the Borough received \$2,293.50 compared to \$6,859.50 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$16,730.49 in 2021 compared to \$4,128.86 in 2020.

State Aid:

There was no State Aid received for 2021 and none in 2020.

Grants in Aid:

We received a total of \$1,090.40 for Grants in Aid for 2021 and nothing in 2020.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$863,926.65 in 2021 compared to \$1,733,967.77 in 2020.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$5,053,368.79 as opposed to \$4,871,747.14 in 2020.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: R. HATHAWAY E. STILL

Councilman Hathaway reported the following:

Shop Rite will accelerate after tonight.

Crown Walk- Pocketbook Factory moving forward quickly

Crown Point – Radio Issue seems to be moving forward Borough is holding up its obligation.

Farmer Market – first day very successful. Many people came and seemed to inspire business downtown. NCP considering putting a billboard sign up that Netcong is open for business and the farmers market is open.

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

J. SYLVESTER

E. KOSTER

Ambulance Corps

Total Calls: 58

Total Patients: 41

Total Hospital Trips: 28

Miles Traveled: 883

Hours Volunteered: 134hrs 26 mins

Fire Department

Incidents:7

Drills: 5

Special Details: 3

Total Volunteers: 40

Total Time Volunteered: 335 Hours and 27 Minutes

Police

Total Calls: 567

Sgt. VanHouten has been named officer in charge. Selection of Chief will come soon. There was brief discussion on having an acting chief and the process for that. There is the possibility of having a lieutenant and detective appointed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

E. KOSTER

R. HATHAWAY

Road Department:

Picked up 64 cy of leaves, 80 cy of brush and 36 cy of grass....Roxbury provided town wide street sweepingPerformed storm drain repairs on Maple Ave and Wiltop Rd

Water Department:

Performed 2nd qtr meter readings

Buildings & Grounds:

Prepped and installed new shed and platform at Borough HallWatered newly planted flowers and filled the self watering flower potsBuilt asphalt ramp into the new shed at DiRenzo ParkInstalled the new message bulletin boards at Indian Field and Di-Renzo ParkInstalled the American flags on Main St and Maple Ave....

Parks & Recreation:

Started weekly grass cutting schedule

Other: Joe Fiorello attended a virtual recycling coordinators meetingMike Canfield attended a virtual Clean Communities course

RECREATION:

J. ALBENSI

T. LAUREYS

1. Our Summer Concert Series begins 6/18 with entertainment by DJ Mike Damelio. This is also our "Kids Night In The Park" where we will hold a chalk coloring contest as well as offer sand art souvenirs. Pre-registration is required for the chalk contest. Also at this concert will be a brief dedication of the donated tree lighting at DiRenzo Park. Rec purchased a nice 8x10 bronze plaque that will be mounted to a thin metal rod and input into the ground by one of the trees.
2. We will hold our Picnic In The Park on Sunday July 4th picnic starts at 5pm and concert from 6-8. The band will be Captains of Leisure!
3. Budget - it is imperative that the Rec Commission is made aware of the approved budget as soon as reasonably possible. We were never made aware of the 10% decrease.
4. Rec will be losing 3 members (all have provided the Mayor with notification)- Donna in August, Sharon in September, and Tammy in December. Mrs. Still is working to add a few new members asap. She is also working with existing members to assure a smooth transition.

The Mayor will sit down with Mrs. Still to discuss replacements.

**PUBLIC SERVICES:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal**

T. LAUREYS

J. ALBENSI

Councilman Laureys restated the possible shred event changes

Days of Service: 18
Miles: 645
Of Stops: 18
Nutrition: 0
Food Shopping: 18
Meals on Wheels: 16
Medical Appointments: 15
Other Appointments: 0
People using services: 14
Cancels: 2
Denials: 0
Unites: 66
Hours: 58.75

OLD BUSINESS

1. Railroad Ave. Drainage

2. Tony Tank Property- Noise and Operation Complaints

It was noted that both topics were discussed earlier.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion – Proposed Fee Ordinances

Mr. Blakeslee gave a brief description on these ordinances and the reasons for the changes. Councilman Still's only concern is if the fees are raised people will start dumping. There was discussion about the amount of the fees. The council feels the fees should be a bit less than the proposed amount. The majority of the council feels \$8.00 and no commercial is reasonable. There was discussion among the council to keep the bulk waste fees at \$10.00. Mr. Blakeslee is trying to offset the cost of the increase in the garbage disposal fees. He also stated we do not have this anywhere in our ordinance so this needs to be done.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President reported that he was adamant about the fees.

Councilman Sylvester: Is there a capital fund for law suits? The mayor responded that we have insurance for this. There was discussion regarding liability amounts among the council. Mr. Blakeslee will check.

Councilman Hathaway: The lake board will be holding their annual fishing contest this weekend. There will be prizes.

Councilman Koster: Asked about the sign for the draft site. The best site was on the Stanhope side by new bridge

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2021- 58** - To Renew Liquor Licenses for 2021-2022
2. **Resolution 2021- 59** - To Renew Anet's Pub Liquor License for 2021-2022
3. **Resolution 2021- 60** - To Renew Quick Chek Liquor License for 2021-2022
4. **Resolution 2020 -61-** Refund of Taxes Paid by Homeowner – 100% Disabled Vet – 12 Allen Terrace
5. **Resolution 2020 -62-** Refund of Taxes Paid by Corelogic Tax Service– 100% Disabled Vet – 12 Allen Terrace

6. **Resolution 2020 -63-** To Re-Appoint Joe McKeon Tax Assessor
7. **Resolution 2020 -64-** To Submit a Grant to Department of Transportation for the Koclas Drive Roadway Improvement Project

A Motion to approve the first three resolutions was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

A Motion to approve resolutions 4 through 7 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2021-17** – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 243 “Garbage, Rubbage, Refuse” And Chapter 155 “Fees” Of the Code of The Borough of Netcong and Amending Fees for Bulky Waste and Tire Disposal

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-17 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call:6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-17 on first reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call:6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2021-18** – An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 155 “Fees” Of The Code Of The Borough Of Netcong And Establishing Non-Life Hazard Inspection Fees

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-18 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-18 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

REPORTS

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

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 Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

For the record, the mayor announced that this is the last online portion of meeting. Future meetings will be 100 % open to public.

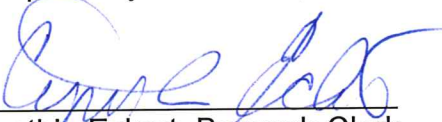
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:14PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk