

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JULY 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 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. Tom Huffman, Dell Avenue wanted to discuss the blocked storm drain by water street. He would like to see that fixed before the street is improved. He would like to know if there could be a 4-way stop sign at the intersection. He also discussed a Quality-of-life situation: he has enjoyed looking at the Lake at night. The lighted trees are not allowing that anymore. They are on until 10:45 at night and drawing people into the park at night. He thanked the Council for their time. The mayor commented the Council has discussed the 4 - way stop and the timer on the lights can be reset to improve the quality of life.

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 24 Dell Ave., noted that the backup of the drain is causing water to run into his yard. The tree lights do look nice but he thought they were only going to be one tree and that they would only be on for special events. When he is in his bedroom, he cannot open the window because the light shines in and the park is busier at night now. He requests there not be any flashing red lights if they do the 4 -way stop as those

lights would shine directly in his window. The mayor stated he wasn't aware there would be a third tree with lights. Councilman Albensi said they will set the timer for 9:00PM going forward. Mr. Anthony thanked the Council for their time.

Mr. Joe Amendola with the Assumption Society wanted to address statements made at the last meeting in regard to the Assumption property on Stoll St. He asked why there was not a sit down before it was discussed at a meeting. For years there was an agreement with the Arbolino family to use each other's property throughout the year. This has never been a problem. He stated there has always been a trailer to hold the Feast supplies. These uses have been going on for years. He feels this should be grandfathered as this has been there for years. The mayor stated he has been in town for 42 years. Years ago, when the feast took place there were no trucks etc. on that property. The reason this has come up is because neighbors in the area have had complaints about the noise and trucks coming from that area. The mayor asked about the wetlands. Mr. Amendola stated there were no millings there as thought. Councilman Sylvester stated the wetlands area is not always wet. There was discussion on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee stated as far as the change of use is concerned, there has been a change of use. Mr. Blakeslee asked how long they have been renting out the property. He stated there are aerial photos showing that in 2007 there were only roll off containers on the property at that time. He gave further detail on this and that is different from what is going on now. Mr. Blakeslee gave further information on the process for a change of use to a property. Mr. Blakeslee stated this would not be an issue if there had not been quality of life complaints from the neighbors due to the noise coming from that site. Mr. Blakeslee stated he would have to go back to get the exact dates of the industrial zone changes. The industrial zone is near a residential area. He stated there does seem to be environmental violations. Councilman Laureys stated one of the noise complaints from a resident were about truck noise at 4:00 in the morning. Mr. Amendola stated the truck company will be leaving. Mr. Amendola stated there is not a motorcycle gang, they are a club. Councilman Laureys asked that we try to put the resident's feelings into consideration and try to compromise. Mr. Blakeslee stated again that this has come to light because of resident complaints. Mr. Amendola stated the resident who is having issues with this could have called them. Councilman Sylvester stated we will not solve this tonight. We need to go down to the site to discuss the violations and then come up with a solution to resolve this.

Mrs. Karen Hogan, 66 Stoll St. lives right next to the industrial zone. The trucks were a noise issue – but they are gone. The motorcycles are there but there are only several of them. The music is not that loud. She would have to sit on her porch to hear it. She stated if the buildings on the property are going to be emptied that would be a safety issue for her. She stated the music ended by 8:00PM. She wanted to let the Council know not all the neighbors have a problem with this.

Mrs. Karen Amico, 52 Railroad Ave., is submitting items to the Council for review. These represent a drainage issue that has been ongoing since 2017. There is no mechanism to tie into the drainage and she is asking why there have been approvals for other streets but not for her street. Mr. Blakeslee stated that an agreement was given to give aid to a homeowner but that is not the case. The approval was not to provide them a storm drain. The mayor stated the water is coming up on the borough right of way, it may be in

front of 88 Koclas Dr. but it is causing a problem in the right of way. Mr. Blakeslee explained this was a recommendation made by the borough engineer. Mrs. Amico wants to know why this drainage issue is being addressed but the issue she has been asking to have improved for the last 5 years have not been addressed. She provided a report from the borough engineer. She understands the issue is coming from her property but she wants to know why a basin was not provided for her to connect to. She provided greater detail on this issue. She wants to know why when the road was being improved a drain was not put in. Councilman Sylvester stated we are in the process of trying to provide an avenue for this water. Mr. Blakeslee explained how he and the DPW superintendent had walked the property. There was further discussion on this issue. She wished this could have been addressed when the road was being improved. Mr. Blakeslee referred to Mr. Guerin borough engineer report.

The mayor explained how the cost of this would have gone beyond the grant money issued. Councilman Sylvester asked again we are working on this problem. We cannot go back with the history but we are trying to work on getting this drainage done. Our engineer is working on this now. He explained to her again we are trying to get her access to a catch basin. It is a work in process as we are trying to solve this problem. He again restated we are trying to solve her problem. Councilman Sylvester explained the Koclas Dr. improvement is for the borough's improvement not a private resident.

Mrs. Kim Arbolino, 25 Kadel Dr. Mt. Arlington has been involved in this community for 35 years. She has been watching the meetings and feels what is getting lost in this town is the sense of community. She stayed here because of the sense of community. She heard everything that was said. The Assumption Society has been supporting the school for years. She is concerned because one individual came to complain and the society was not notified. The Assumption was never given the chance to give their side. She feels she has to speak her mind on this issue. She is concerned about the comments that were made by the Council. She would like to see everyone work together. That is the beauty of Netcong. Councilman Sylvester stated this has been going on for 18 months. He has been at that site several times and seen violations. Mrs. Arbolino stated this was "nit picking." Councilman Sylvester stated intervention was tried several times to no avail. Mrs. Arbolino stated again this is heartbreaking to her. The mayor stated this has been going on for years. Councilman Laureys stated he wished that when there are issues with neighbors, they should talk to each other. He stated it is good that they each came to the Council but the neighbors should talk to each other.

Mrs. Hogan, 66 Stoll St., stated she did speak with Mr. Grogan but he chose to call the police. He would prefer conflict and is not agreeable. Mrs. Hogan stated she had an issue with the bikers but she talked to them and they stopped. She stated again if you live by an industrial park you have to expect noise. If you don't want the noise then move.

Mr. Jim Ubhaus -72 Stoll Street stated that there are children playing, the train goes by every day. There are other noises in the neighborhood. He does not understand why Mr. Grogan choose to complain about these issues and noted these people are hard working. He stated he gets complaints from Mr. Grogan. The mayor asked if the

daycare is still going on. Mr. Ubhaus stated yes. He is concerned for the children there. He stated he planted trees between his home and the neighbor for privacy.

Seeing no one else from the public stepping forward, a Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 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 July 8, 2021.

1. Minutes

Minutes – June 3, 2021

Minutes – June 10, 2021

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. Ordinance Adoptions

Ordinance 2021-17- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 243 “Garbage, Rubbish, Refuse” And Chapter 155 “Fees” Of The Code Of The Borough Of Netcong And Amending Fees For Bulky Waste And Tire Disposal

To be carried to the July 8th meeting.

Ordinance Adoptions – 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

To be carried to the July 8th meeting.

3. Correspondence - None

4. Old Business – Dell Ave. Speed Tables

Councilman Sylvester stated he talked to Ralph and one speed table will not be enough. They stated the 4-way stop may be a better solution. A speed limit sign was also discussed. Mr. Blakeslee stated that Mr. Bucco compose an ordinance for the 4-way stop for next week’s meeting

5. New Business- Amendment to Sewer Transmission Agreement with Woodmont Parc.

Mr. Blakeslee asked this to be added to the agenda because in addition to the entities that have hooked into our system, we amend the original agreement to

have a fee for meter maintenance. There was discussion on the agreement for Quick Chek. Mr. Blakeslee stated we have received funds. There will be a resolution for next week

6. **New Business** -Social Affair Permit – St. Cesario Society

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster to approve the permit.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

7. **New Business** – Authorize DPW to perform landscaping and minor maintenance – 22 Wiltop Rd.

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

8. **RESOLUTION**

Resolution 2021- 66 - Authorizing Participation of The Borough Of Netcong In The Corona-virus State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Established By The American Rescue Plan Act Of 2021, To Apply For, And Receive Funds To Apply To Acute Pandemic Response Needs, Fill Revenue Shortfalls, Created By The Covid 19 Crisis

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: he understands the water issues and added that we should just be mindful and careful regarding how we handle this. We don't want to be going on private property. Councilman Still stated there is a lot of ground water in Netcong. Mr. Anthony asked if this water was coming from Netcong Heights. Mr. Blakeslee stated he was there during a rain storm and water was not coming from Netcong Heights. It was determined this water was coming from ground water. Councilman Koster stated the engineer's letter Mrs. Amico provided, stated there may be a solution stated (on the last page of Mr. Guerin's report) to alleviate the ponding. Mr. Blakeslee stated it is the responsibility of the homeowner to take care of water on their property. There was further discussion on the Karen Amico drainage issue. The Council President just wants to be sure tax payer money is not being used to solve issues on private property. Councilman Laureys asked if this opens this up to do this for other residents to go through our right of way. Councilman Still stated it is the responsibility of the homeowner to fix any issues that may be caused to a neighbor's area.

Councilman Sylvester stated Main St properties have been purchased by the Koch's. He is concerned that they are going too far forward in their plans to replace the building that

burned. Councilman Still stated the economic development committee has seen the plans and they don't involve knocking down buildings.

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 Sylvester.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

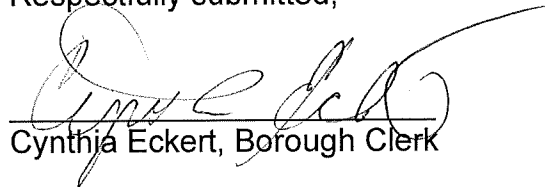
CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Sylvester and passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk