

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 11TH , 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.

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC SESSION

Dr. Michael Rossi, Superintendent of Lenape Valley Regional High School and Mr. Richard Kuncken, Board of Education President

Mr. Rossi thanked the Council for their time. He wanted to say a few words on the plans and visions he has for Lenape Valley as well as the K-8 sending districts. He taught and coached for 34 years as well as serving as a college professor and half of his career as a high school superintendent. He stated one of the things they are starting on now is technical and professional pathways for students. He explained how they would provide these classes. There are dozens of pathways that will be available to the students. He gave several examples of the types of pathways that would be available. They will be developing an LVR alumni association which will be free. They want to learn from the

graduates of LVR who are now successful adults/professionals. They would like to create a long-range strategic plan. They have had 3 meetings so far and the Council is invited to attend and participate in future meetings on December 16th and January 26th. It will be held in the brand-new state of the art student center. He went on to explain some of the things they are already doing as well as what still needs to be done. They will be having a retreat for the board to discuss how to prepare the students for a promising future.

Mr. Rich Kuncken, LVR Board President, has been on the board for the last 9 years; he has been the board president for the past 7 years. He stated the board is trying to reconnect with the community whether parent, student, grandparent etc. He discussed the school board budget briefly. He explained some of the everyday costs of running the facility. He explained how the school choice program works. Students from other towns can attend LVR and they get the tax dollars from that town for that student. The strategic plan is to give students a good education. They want to keep as many students from the sending districts as possible. Many students will go to college but some will not. They are now wanting to provide education for those students who may not want or be able to go to college but may be in the trades. The strategic planning sessions are approximately 90 minutes and are to come up with new fresh ideas for the school. He stated they are visiting all the sending districts to keep everyone informed. The Mayor asked about bringing trades back into the high school. Mr. Rossi stated they will work on some of these trades carefully. Mr. Kuncken stated they will not be able to be a technical school but they want to provide some alternate pathways other than college. The idea is to provide these students with some different options to allow them to be exposed to some things before they get to college age.

Councilman Sylvester asked if there is still shared time with Votech. The response was "yes." There is a drop in attendance at LVR. They want to ensure they will have students to attend these specialized classes. He stated they are working with the local colleges so students can gain some college credits while they are in high school. He provided details of visions for the future. They are trying to communicate more with the sending districts so they are aware of what is going on. Councilman Laureys asked where the new student center is located. Mr. Kunucken stated It is on the second floor at the library. Mr. Kuncken gave details on the changes to this area of the school. The strategic plan is on the homepage of their website. Mr. Rossi can be contacted at any time. The Council thanked them for their time.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. Ordinance 2021-25 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 268, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VIII SCHEDULES, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BY AMENDING THE PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON BANK STREET AND ADDING RESTRICTIONS ON JENNY LIND STREET

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-25 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 Public Hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2021-25 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee wanted to report on the infrastructure projects:

- Bridge at Arbolino park complete
- There was a problem with the water main on Helen way. Water was temporarily shut off.
- Receiving DOT grant for Koclas Dr. Improvements in the amount of \$220,000.00
- Hillside Ave. water main project waiting on formal letter
- Locust St. – communications problems with contractor- Mr. Bucco can send him a letter.
- Allen terrace project DOT authorized us to advertise for bids
- Love Lane considering application. Boro engineer is working on that. The police delivered surveys to the businesses there
- Need to consider DOT local road aid applications for 2022
- Authorized engineer to do survey work for manholes – hydrants etc.

Mr. Blakesee also discussed speed tables for Dell Ave: The engineer has provided a drawing showing the proposed locations

Paper street- West St.: There is a request from Mr. Dellamo. He would like to know if the borough would consider abandoning the street since he owns the adjacent properties. Mr. Bucco stated we will not be able to do that until next year. Mr. Bucco stated there is no compensation to the borough for vacating a street but there will be taxes charged on it. An escrow can be established to cover the cost of engineering fees etc. if it is the Council's pleasure. Councilman Hathaway would like to wait until Mr. Dellamo owns both pieces of property before we vacate the property. He is concerned about doing this for 2 different residents. Councilman Laureys asked why this paper

street was established in the first place. There was brief discussion among the Council on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee will continue to work on it.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT

OCTOBER 2021

RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTION

30 BARONE ST

23 STOLL ST

3 BROOKSIDE AVE

29 STOLL ST

31 STOLL ST

13 BARONE ST

140 MAIN ST

27 DELL AVE-A&B

33 KOCLAS DR

2 CHESTNUT ST

27 DELL AVE - UNITA

MAINTENANCE ISSUE

3 NORTH ST

39 AMENDOLA DR 61 RAILROAD AVE

COUCH OUTSIDE OF HOUSE FOOD TRUCK TALL GRASS NO SHOWER OR TUB -

MADE RALPH AWARE OF THIS ISSUE

1 MARC CT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

For the month of October 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$573,792.57 as compared to \$858,525.98 in October 2020.

For the month of October 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA): In 2021 the Borough received \$2,053.50 compared to \$1,951.00 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees: The Borough received \$6,500.42 in 2021 compared to \$11,628.16 in 2020.

State Aid: There was \$58,785.90 in 2021 and \$176,318.51 in 2020.

Grants in Aid; We received \$560.00 in 2021 compared to \$1,547.50 in 2020.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$504,905.25 in 2021 compared to \$668,068.31 in 2020,

Income Total Year to Date: The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$8,924,942.73 as opposed to \$8,558,329.37 in 2020.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

- There will be a meeting next Friday with St. Michaels shortly.
- ShopRite will be seen by the planning board soon.
- The pocketbook factory is moving along quickly
- Mr. Maisano – no progress made with that redevelopment

Public Safety: J. Sylvester E. Koster
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

Councilman Sylvester noted that the police dept. is making great progress.

Police

Total Calls: 584

Radar and motorist time: 58

Ambulance

Total Calls: 66

Total Patients: 40

Total Hospital Trips: 25

Miles Traveled: 822

Hours Volunteered: 188 hours, 13 minutes

Assist by Netcong Fire Dept: 1

Assist by Stanhope Fire Dept: 1

Fire Department

Incidents: 10

Drills: 3

Admin/Spec.Detail: 2

Total Hours: 139hours 41 minutes

Total volunteers: 28

Quarterly Fire Prevention: July-Sept. 2021

4 State Life Hazard uses

4 Certificate Inspections

2 Permits Issued

1 Town Correspondence

1 Fire Investigation

25.5 Total hours worked

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities: E. Koster R. Hathaway

no report submitted

Recreation: J. Albensi T. Laureys

The trunk or treat took place with 400 hot dogs and 15 gallons of donated apple cider consumed.

The decorating contest took place

1st-14 Amendola

2nd 18 Hilltop

3rd -8 Kings

Still working on Holiday parade which will be Dec. 5th

Christmas light contest judging will be Dec. 12th

Public Services: T. Laureys J. Albensi
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

Dial a Ride report, October

Days of Service: 19

Miles: 841

of Stops: 41

Nutrition: 0

Food Shopping: 22

of meals on Wheels: 19

Medical Appointments: 28

Other appointments: 7

People Using Services: 18

Cancels: 5

Denials: 0

Units:82

Hours: 71.5

OLD BUSINESS

None presented

NEW BUSINESS

None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Still continues to have an issue with leaves on the street. The guys are raking/sweeping leaves but it is not enough. He wanted equipment to be purchased to keep the street clean. The leaves in the road end up in the residents' yards. The Mayor asked if we contacted Roxbury about this. Councilman Still wants this to be done. The Mayor suggested we purchase our own sweeper. Councilman Hathaway asked that we have the engineer to write up a spec for this and hire someone to do this. There was discussion among the Council on getting a several year contract to take care of this. It should be treated like garbage collection. Councilman Koster asked what dates need to be established to accomplish this. Councilman Koster stated he will sit down with Councilman Still to decide what they want done and when. There was further discussion on finding a contractor to take care of this. Mr. Bucco suggested contacting Mine Hill as they have a street sweeper.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-104 - Appointing Colin Armstrong as Probationary Patrolman of the Netcong Police Department.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. ORDINANCE 2021-26 -AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 268, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VIII SCHEDULES, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY AMENDING THE PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON PROSPECT STREET

The Council discussed which side of the street this will affect briefly.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-26 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-26 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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


CLOSED SESSION

Closed session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:24PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk