

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD DECEMBER 9, 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 (via conference call,) 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.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

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

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Still

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Mr. Blakeslee noted and updated. The Love Lane Resolution is removed from tonight's agenda. Mr .Blakeslee is in dialogue with Mt. Olive Township to have them take over the maintenance of this road.
- Mr. Blakeslee has changed his vacation to the week after Christmas.
- The paperwork for the community block grant is prepared.
- The FEMA firefighters grant is in progress.
- Mr. Blakeslee is not sure if community block grant will be remote or in person

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTIONS

60 KOCLAS DR
21 LEDGEWOOD AVE
29 RAILROAD AVE
16 MAIN ST
12 LEDGEWOOD AVE
2 CHESTNUT ST
60 KOCLAS DR

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

78 KOCLAS DR – GARBAGE ON THE PROPERTY
43 COLLEGE – TOILET AT CURB/NO STICKER
85 STOLL ST – BED OUTSIDE ON THE PROPERTY/NO STICKERS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & INSURANCE:

E. STILL

J. SYLVESTER

Councilman Still stated the committee met to discuss having Mt. Olive takeover of Love Lane since they will have housing units on that road.

Budget requests have been received. Mr. Blakeslee will have the reports ready for the committees.

For the month of November 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$2,198,608.54 as compared to \$2,065,916.77 in November 2020.

For the month of November 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA): In 2021 the Borough received \$3,923.50 compared to \$5,307.50 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees: The Borough received \$4,792.32 in 2021 compared to \$4,276.56 in 2020.

State Aid: There was \$39,960.37 in 2021 and \$41,799.90 in 2020.

Grants in Aid: We received \$1,403.14 in 2021 and nothing in 2020.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$2,084,977.56 in 2021 compared to \$2,014,532.81 in 2020.

Income Total Year to Date: The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$11,059,999.62 as opposed to \$10,624,246.14 in 2020.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: R. HATHAWAY E. STILL

Councilman Hathaway reported he and Mr. Blakeslee met with Bill Koch and a group he brought to the table which was a restatement of the Borough's expectations for that property. The property remains in the current state for now.

There was a meeting with the Mountain View group for the St. Michael's project. Councilman Hathaway provided details of the subjects discussed at that meeting. It was mentioned a PILOT would be beneficial to the Borough. There has been a submission of a document stating the reasons for a need for redevelopment. This project seems desirable for the Borough. More time will be needed before this comes to the Council. Councilman Sylvester stated he thought we would stick with the R-3 zone. Councilman Hathaway stated this may cause issues with numbers for the school. There was discussion on this property's size and of the lots and homes that may be built there. There was further discussion among the Council on this project. Councilman Hathaway

stated they can come in and develop as an R-3 zone without any variances etc. The Borough will need to be careful to maintain some control in the development of this property. There was discussion among the Council on flooding possibilities that may occur if this project goes forward. It is to the Borough's advantage to make this an area in need of redevelopment.

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

J. SYLVESTER

E. KOSTER

Police

Total Calls: 559

Violations: 20

Medical Assist: 15

Public Service:21

Ambulance Corps

Total Call: 44

Total Patients: 31

Total Hospital Trips: 18

Total Miles: 686

Total Hours: 307hr, 1 min.

Fire Department

Total incidents: 3

Total drills: 3

Total admin/spec .details: 4

Total hours:112hrs, 44 min.

Total volunteers:35

There was a request for the emergency squad or police department to have access to the knox boxes. Mr. Bucco asked who has control of these boxes. It was stated the fire dept. is. Mr. Bucco asked if we have an ordinance for this in place. He wanted to know the procedure for accessing these boxes. The Mayor stated the police should have access to these boxes. Mr. Bucco stated the emergency squad would not need access but the police should. We may have to change the ordinance to allow police access. There was discussion on the particulars of this subject and the procedures that should be used. Mr. Bucco stated it may be possible to have a dispatch release for access. Councilman Koster mentioned that the fire department always calls in when they need to use the key.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

E. KOSTER

R. HATHAWAY

D.P.W. Monthly Report December 2021

Road Department: Performed brake repairs on the Sr Van, Police vehicle 28G, and the DPW diesel....Performed service of the Administrators vehicle....Cleaned leaves off of

curb lines 3 times through the month....Brought 2 DPW vehicles to Lakeside Tire for new tires and alignments....Picked up 92 cy of leaves and 44 cy of brush....

Water Department: Replace the service line to 36 Dell Ave...Repaired a 10 inch water main on Mountain Rd at Rt 183....Repaired a service line saddle on the transit line behind the old Ken's Barns....Performed Nov water meter readings....

Buildings & Grounds: Winterized the park bathrooms and closed parks.... Prepared and hung Christmas decorations....Jim Fluke of Peterson's Tree Service decorated the tree at the Firehouse and hung the lights across Main St....

Parks & Recreation: Mulched and bagged leaves at Parks....

Snow: Met with the plow contractor to go over routes and equipment.Received the season's first load of salt....

Other: Mike Canfield attended a plastic straw ban webinar....Mike Canfield attended the League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City....

Mayor Nametko asked if the basketball and tennis courts will be closed later than normal. Mr. Blakeslee stated they were open later than normal but are now closed.

RECREATION:

J. ALBENSI

T. LAUREYS

Councilman Albensi thanked the Council for allowing the rec. commission to hold the Holiday Parade. He thanked the police dept. and dpw for their help.

The house decorating contest judging will be held on Dec. 12th.

Councilman Albensi is looking forward to new members on the committee for 2022. Mayor Nametko stated he blocked out time for next year's parade to attend as Santa if needed.

PUBLIC SERVICES:

T. LAUREYS

J. ALBENSI

**(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal**

DIAL A RIDE MONTHLY REPORT

Month: November

Days of Service: 19

Miles: 822

#of Stops: 53

Nutrition: (2 people) 7

Food Shopping: 34
of Meals on Wheels: 17
Medical Appointments: 30
Other Appointments: 19
People Using Services: 21
Cancels: 3
Denials: 0
Units: 106
Hours: 70.75

Councilman Laureys noted that the Recycling shred event was successful. 2022 MUA acceptable material flyers will be posted on the Netcong website and Facebook page. There will be at least 1 shred event in 2022.

Councilman Still stated last year there was discussion that much of the recycles are ending up in the dump. Mr. Blakeslee stated the biggest issue is wet recycles cannot be recycled. They must be kept dry. Councilman Hathaway stated there were changes in mid contract. He wanted to know if this is a good relationship for the borough. Mr. Blakeslee stated that when we go out to bid for garbage, we will go out to bid again for recycling. There was discussion among the Council on this subject.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Ryan J. H. Slahor. as a Junior Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this appointment.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President wished to thank all for help at the parade. All the employees did a great job. He also thanked Councilman Koster for his years of service on the Council stating "you will be missed."

Councilman Koster thanked the Council for the privilege to serve for 14 years.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor wished to thank all for their support.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2021-105** - Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Love Lane Resurfacing Project.

This resolution is tabled.

2. **Resolution 2021-111**- Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Community Animal Control Services
3. **Resolution 2021-112**- Supporting the Federal Fair Housing Law and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

Councilman Laureys asked if there was a change in the law on this resolution. Mr. Bucco gave a brief description on this resolution. Mr. Blakeslee stated this resolution is a requirement for community block grant

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the second and third resolutions.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PROCLAMATIONS

HONORING EDWARD KOSTER FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Whereas, Edward "Ed" Koster has, after more than 14 years of service and after thoughtful consideration, chosen to conclude his term of service as a member of the Borough Council; and,

Whereas, Edward "Ed" Koster has been a life-long resident of the Borough of Netcong, raising, along with his wife Karen, his three children in the Borough; and,

Whereas, Ed has always displayed a strong sense of civic pride and dedication, which he inherited from his family, who have also served the Borough over the years; and

Whereas, Ed's service to the Borough includes many years on the Netcong Fire Department, holding various ranks including two terms as Fire Chief, finishing his second term this year; and,

Whereas, Ed has served as a Councilman for the Borough from April 2007 to present; and,

Whereas, Ed's knowledge, diligence and hard work has greatly contributed to the safety of the Borough, its' citizens, and businesses; and,

Whereas, Ed has also had a long career running his own plumbing business located in Netcong and has served the residents in the borough and surrounding towns in this capacity for many years; and,

Whereas, it is right that dedicated public servants of Ed Koster's stature are recognized for their professional and volunteer work and that such recognition is noted in the Borough's permanent records.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough Netcong in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey Edward Koster be recognized for his outstanding service to the community for his past and continuing service to the residents of the Borough and the State of New Jersey.

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a proclamation presented to Edward "Ed" Koster by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong on December 9, 2021.

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

None presented.

REPORTS

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

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 Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION (8:10PM)

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

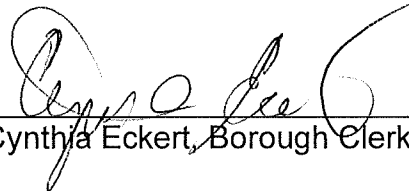
Litigation- Prism Holdings vs. Netcong Planning Board

3. The Mayor and Council shall release and disclose to the general public the discussion and actions taken on the subject matter of the above-mentioned closed session once the Mayor and Council has arrived at a final decision on the specified subject matter.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:29 PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk