

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEB. 3, 2022 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 14, 2022.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper
of the Borough of Netcong on January 19, 2022 and emailing a
copy to the Star Ledger on January 14, 2022.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Morton, 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

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway,
Roll Call: 6 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 February 10, 2022.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – January 13, 2022 Reorganization Meeting
2. **Approval of Minutes** – January 13, 2022 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the two Minutes documents noted above.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Ordinance Adoption** – None Presented

4. **Correspondence** – American Legion – Memorial Day Parade

The mayor stated they will be stopping by our memorial and placing a wreath by it. Flags will be handed out.

5. **Correspondence** – Netcong Planning Board Resolution 2022-03

The mayor took a few minutes to explain that several planning board members would like to go out for an RFP for planning board attorney. He would like the Council to send a recommendation to the planning board that an RFP should be done for planning board engineer and attorney. Mr. Blakeslee will send a letter

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester for Mr. Blakeslee to send a recommendation to the Planning Board that an RFP should be completed for the board attorney.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **New Business** – Proposal to Switch to Fiber Telephone Service

Mr. Blakeslee provided details on this subject. Verizon will be switching from copper to fiber lines. The Borough has received a proposal that would save the borough approximately \$5,000.00 per year. It would also allow the borough to have more lines. The mayor stated if we move forward, he would like a concrete proposal. Councilman Hathaway asked if our current equipment will be compatible. Councilman Still asked if the lines have already been replaced. Mr. Blakeslee stated it is already available to us and would not require any software or equipment changes. He also stated this company may be able to provide other services down the line. He would like to try this first to see how their service is. There was further discussion on this subject among the Council. Mr. Blakeslee would like to check several aspects before next week's meeting. He would like to do a resolution at the next meeting or next month to approve this.

7. **Old Business** - None presented.

8. **New Business** – Proposed Multi-Way Stop Intersection for Route 183, Maple Ave. and Allen Terrace.

The Council has an issue with this proposal. Councilman Hathaway asked if this was part of the safe routes to school or will this conflict with the safe routes. The mayor stated this will cause chaos at the intersection of route 46 and 183. Mr. Blakeslee explained there was an accident last year and there were complaints to the DOT. The DOT did a study and determined this was the best solution. Councilman Laureys asked why the state got involved. The mayor explained there was a complaint filed. Councilman Laureys provided his opinion. Mr. Blakeslee explained it is a state road so we have no control over what they do. Even our ideas would have to be approved by the state. There was discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Hathaway asked how we can proceed. The mayor said the assemblywoman Dunn will be here when the state comes to observe this area. He encouraged the councilman to be there as well.

9. **Resolution – 2022-23-** Authorizing the Acceptance of a USDA Grant to Assist with the Purchase of SCBA Air-Packs & Related Equipment for the Netcong Fire Department

10. **Resolution – 2022-24-** Appointing Wayne Anthony as Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for a Three-Year Term

11. **Resolution – 2022-25-** Authorizing the Appointment of the Borough's Municipal Court Judge

Councilman Laureys asked if he is just the judge for Netcong.

12. **Resolution – 2022-26 –** To Appoint Richard Proctor as Administrative Assistant

Mr. Blakeslee provided details regarding the appointment of Mr. Proctor and the reasons for this hire. He stated he has just graduated from Montclair State University and will be a great asset to learn the administrator and clerk positions. The purpose is to begin setting up a new administrator and clerk to replace those employees who will be retiring in the future. Mr. Proctor has been interning with Byram Township for a time and has done a very impressive job. The mayor stated he is a smart young man who will be a benefit to the town. Councilman Still stated we have always had someone in training to be sure to have a back-up. There was a brief discussion about the possibilities.

13. **Resolution 2022-27-** Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to Provide Funding for the Hillside Avenue Watermain Improvement Project.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi to approve the five resolutions noted above.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

14. **Ordinance Introduction – Ordinance 2022-1 –** An Ordinance Authorizing the Chief of Police to Execute an Application for A Charitable Solicitation Permit for Netcong Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's "Coin Drop" On Memorial Day Weekend and Columbus Day Weekend at The Intersections of Allen Street and Ledgewood Avenue and Main Street and Route 46 And Route 183 In the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State Of New Jersey

This ordinance will be carried to the Feb. 10th meeting.

15. Proclamation - None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President asked about The St. Michael project – when will they be coming to present to the Council. Councilman Hathaway explained they will be at next week's

meeting and the details of what would need to be authorized. He stated there is much work to be done before possibly moving forward with this. He gave details on the property and possibilities. This presentation would only recommend the need for redevelopment. Councilman Sylvester asked if they had purchased 34 Bank. There was some discussion regarding this situation.

Councilman Albensi stated that we need to do something about icy/snowy sidewalks. Mr. Blakeslee said they have already discussed this with the police. A procedure will be put in place. There was a brief discussion. Councilman Hathaway stated he had experience with this and blocking sidewalks is not allowed. Some residents are not able to clear these large piles on corners. He feels the contractor should be responsible for clearing corners. There was further discussion on this subject.

Councilman Albensi also stated that we need to look into doing one way street for Church St. or no on street parking on Sundays. There was discussion among the Council on how they have been wanting to do this for years and how this is a very bad situation. There was discussion on which way to make it one way. There were several comments/suggestions on how to resolve this issue. Councilman Hathaway asked if there was resistance from the residents on this one way. There was further discussion on the best way to resolve this. Councilman Sylvester suggested we just do a one-way street by putting up a sign. Councilman Hathaway suggested we have our engineer give advice on the best way to do this properly.

Councilman Still wished to discuss mask mandates. If you want to wear a mask fine, but a masked mandate is not needed. Since Netcong is not a hot spot right now, there is no need. The Mayor and Council should decide about this mandate, not the administrator. Councilman Albensi suggested masked preferred but not required. The mayor offered that he has not received any complaints.

Councilman Laureys referred to many years ago when Cissy was on the Council. Her objection was flooding due to development on the St. Michael property. His concern is they will bill, sell and leave the mess. He is concerned about possible flooding that will occur. Councilman Hathaway stated the challenging thing about his analysis is land developers have the right to develop land if done within regulations. Councilman Laureys suggested we don't build impervious land but keep it as open space. The mayor stated we have a tool that was not available when Cissy was on the Council. There are very strong storm water regulations that will not allow building in areas that will cause flooding. There was discussion on the details of these regulations.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Wayne Anthony 24 Dell Ave. wanted to address the sidewalk issue: He shoveled a path and the plow came back and pushed it back on the sidewalk again. The body shop doesn't shovel where the crosswalk is.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

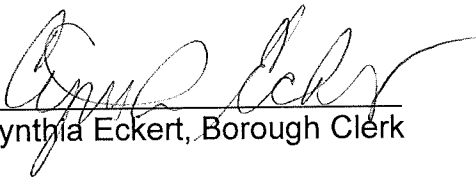
CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Hathaway and passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk