

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD APRIL 14, 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

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 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.

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing the 100th Birthday of Margaret Lamanna. Mrs. Lamanna was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Minutes** – March 3, 2022
- **Minutes** – March 10, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Still

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Valerie Dolan, Auditor – To Address the Council

Val stepped forward to review the 2022 budget. She explained the details of the budget. The Borough is at the limit on the cap. The 2023 budget will be difficult because of this. She provided the figures of the increases for this year. She gave details on the revenue coming in and the decreases due to covid. She gave a review of the appropriations. The mayor stated the state put pensions and insurance in the cap which has made it difficult to balance the budget. Mrs. Dolan provided more information about this issue and how it is affecting the smaller towns first and now the larger towns as well. Mr. Gabloff, Borough CFO, stated our tax levy is not the issue, it is the caps that are causing this issue. He included details regarding why this is affecting the budget. Councilman Laureys asked why the state changed the issue of pensions inside the cap. Mrs. Dolan stated this has been in effect for approximately 3 years. She explained we do not know why the state had changed it. The mayor tried to find out why, but he was unsuccessful. The Council wondered if it is possible to do a referendum question to the voters to increase appropriations. This would assist in raising the cap but there is no guarantee it would be approved by the voting residents. Mr. Blakeslee stated you cannot just do whatever you want, you need to give detailed explanations on the appropriations desired. She explained next year there will only be 14,000.00 left in the cap. Mr. Gabloff explained it takes 2-3 years for a pension to be changed if a position is eliminated. Councilman Laureys asked if there is a way to negotiate the pension with the state. The response was 'that is not a possibility.' Mrs. Dolan provided greater detail on this issue of the cap. The borough is in a good financial condition but there is a state-controlled cap issue due to pensions and insurance. This is something we do not have control over.

Mr. Blakeslee wanted to take the time to thank Val and Jason as they are relied upon often for advice. They have a high level of expertise and professionalism.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2022-3- To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-3 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-49- Self-Examination of the 2022 Budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Resolution 2022-50– Introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 SID ASSESSMENTS

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution #2022-51- Approving the Property Assessments for the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong.

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution #2022-52 – Approving the Introduction of the 2022 Budget of the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District and Authorizing a Public Hearing to Be Held Thereon.

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

Ordinance 2022-2 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE CORP OF STANHOPE/NETCONG'S "COIN DROP" ON JUNE 10TH, JUNE 11TH 2022 AND ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, AND SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2022 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2022-2 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2022-2 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee noted that Mrs. Eckert would be on vacation next week and he would be on vacation the following week.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT
March 2022

Rental/Resale Inspections

80 Allen St
105 Stoll St
100 Stoll St – 2 Units
105 Stoll St
49 Main St
10 Allen St
47 Ledgewood Ave – 2 Units
49 Ledgewood Ave
91 Allen St – 2 Units
1 Kings Rd - 2 Units
51-53 Railroad Ave
21 Stoll St
25 Koclas Dr
5 Herrick Rd – 2 Units
5 Burt St
5 Highland – 2 Units
82 Koclas Dr
Netcong Heights
Bldg 5/Apt1, Bldg 11/Apt 5, Bldg 15/Apt 1, Bldg 23/Apt 11, Bldg 24/Apt 8, Bldg 25/Apt 6
Bldg 25/Apt 9, Bldg 27/Apt 6, Bldg 28/Apt 2, Bldg 28/Apt 3

Maintenance Issues

80 Main St – Debris on Porch

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Chairman Still provided the report

For the month of March 2022, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$103,629.75 as compared to \$135,467.92 in March 2022. For the month of March 2022:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated CMRNA):

In 2022 the Borough received \$2,263.50 compared to \$2,632.00 in 2021

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$6,447.24 in 2022 compared to \$6,111.66 in 2021.

State Aid:

There was no state aid in either 2021 or 2022.

Grants in Aid:

The Grants in Aid for 2022 was \$11,544.58 and \$22,637.17 in 2021.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$83,374.43 in 2022 compared to \$104,087.09 in 2021.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$2,689,742.52 as opposed to \$2,588,827.04 in 2021.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted that everything was covered in the administrator report and the resolutions to follow.

Public Safety: J. Sylvester T. Laureys
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

Councilman Sylvester provided reports for the police, fire department, fire prevention.

Fire Department

Total Calls:4

Drills: 2

Administrative Details: 4

Total Members: 47

Total Time Volunteered: 221 Hours, 15 Minutes

Police Department

Total Calls: 821

Traffic Enforcement: 249

Building/Property check: 109

Fire Prevention

Inspections: 9

Violations: 167

Penalties: 0

Admin: 2

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

File DPW report when it comes in. He gave a water operator report.

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

Councilman Morton stated it was busy Saturday, April 9th. There was a garage sale with in person sign ups and egg hunt. Served over 200 bowls of ice cream. Biggest event since covid began

Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

T. Morton

Councilman Laureys read the Dial a Ride report

Dial a Ride, Mar. 2022

Days of Service: 23

Miles: 947

of Stops: 71

Nutrition: 3

Food Shopping: 37

of Meals on Wheels: 20

Medical Appointments: 56

Other Appointments: 12

People Using Services: 37

Cancels: 6

Denials: 0

Units: 208

Hours: 82

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: Read a letter in reference to the St. Michael project (see next paragraph.) He has had both old and new residents telling him they are concerned with

having another complex added to our town. There is concern about increased traffic, burden on the police department, ambulance squad and school. He is not in favor of advancing this project.

"In my opinion the project on the St Mike's property will be a burden to the residents of that neighborhood as well as the whole town. We have already built 208 units on that side of town and now want to add 88 more for a total of 296 rental units within 300 yards or so of each other

I have had both old and new residents come to me and ask what are we doing to our once quiet town? There are relatively new residents who tell me this is what they left, The congestion and the density. They are considering moving. The old ones are asking who's going to pay for the services these projects are going to require? Extra cops, EMS, Fire and DPW. They wonder if they can afford to stay.

Rt 46 is going to be the main access to the property because of the traffic, is this going to become like the Stoll/Maple Ave. intersection to get out of the complex? The line of site looking east is not that good and traffic is generally traveling above the speed limit. Will this require a traffic light? How are the drivers coming out of Flanders Rd making illegal left turns as is the practice now, going to add to the traffic problems?

The Church just lost 29 parking spaces. Where are the church goers going to park? These are now guest parking for the project the church can use if available. They will have the street, the few spaces behind the school and the lower lot.

The main access to the project is going to be through the parking lot on Church St. Did anyone ask the residents on Church, Cross or Center St. or for that matter all of Wiltop how they felt about the extra traffic? The Wiltop area residents who now enjoy a basically quiet neighborhood."

Councilman Hathaway: There was discussion in the past about a Morris County parks grant as phase one is almost completed. Phase two would be a walking path. He thinks it is time to have the engineer put this together since the county just granted Jefferson township a million dollars for a similar project. He feels Netcong has the opportunity to make improvements that will benefit the residents. He explained that much of this is already in place. Mr. Blakeslee explained a project that already has permits for their project would have a greater chance of receiving a grant for this type of work. He suggested we have the engineer working on this to be prepared to put in an application for this project. He feels we have demonstrated we have the capability of doing a project of this nature. He reviewed the improvements already made to Arbolino Park. The mayor noted there is more funding available for trails on a regular basis now. Councilman Hathaway stated the federal grants are 100%. The mayor stated we have been successful 11 out of 12 times for a county grant. The importance is to be shovel ready for these grants. He stated those that are ready for this get the funds. Mr. Blakeslee stated he will contact our engineer to get an estimate on the cost.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2022-53-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 19-00010 – 117 Ledgewood Ave. LLC.
2. **Resolution 2022-54** - A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation to Determine Whether an Area of The Borough of Netcong Meets the Statutory Criteria for A “Non-Condensation Area in Need of Redevelopment”, Pursuant to The Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40a:12a-1 Et Seq.
3. **Resolution 2022-55-** A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Surplus Property

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still to approve the three resolutions noted above.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2022-4** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 243, “GARBAGE COLLECTION”, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG
Councilman Sylvester had a question about the sideline setback. Most properties are 5 feet not 10'. Mr. Oostdyk stated we can amend this now. The Council would like to make the setback five feet.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-4 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-4 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2022-5** - Fixing the Salaries of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-5 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Capital Ordinance 2022-6 - Capital Ordinance of The Borough of Netcong, In the County of Morris, New Jersey Authorizing the Acquisition of a Mason Dump Truck In, By and For the Sewer Utility of The Borough, Appropriating Therefor the Sum Of \$90,000 And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised from The Sewer Utility Capital Improvement Fund.**

A Motion to Introduce Capital Ordinance #2022-6 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Capital Ordinance #2022-6 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. **Capital Ordinance 2022-7 - Capital Ordinance of The Borough of Netcong, In the County of Morris, New Jersey Authorizing the Making of Various Public Improvements and Acquisitions In, By and For the Borough, Appropriating Therefor the Sum Of \$58,150 And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised from The Capital Improvement Fund and Various Reserve Funds.**

A Motion to Introduce Capital Ordinance #2022-7 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Capital Ordinance #2022-7 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. **Bond Ordinance 2022-8 - Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of The Allen Terrace Water Main Replacement Project 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 \$262,500 To Pay the Cost Thereof, 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 Introduce Bond Ordinance #2022-8 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2022-8 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Bond Ordinance 2022-9 -Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Making Of Various Public Improvements And The Acquisition Of New Additional Or Replacement Equipment And Machinery And New Automotive Vehicles, Including Original Apparatus And Equipment, In, By And For The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$611,000 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 Introduce Bond Ordinance #2022-9 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2022-9 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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 Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6

Councilman Hathaway asked if we needed to discuss the traffic signal at Maple. Ave. Mr. Blakeslee explained we will wait for the state.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mrs. Dalesandro – Barone St. wanted to know:

- which PILOT will be realized this year- 34 BNK.
- what the numbers are for the levy and budget.
- where 10,000,000 is. That includes the school taxes as well.
- what the 88-unit project will be going to.

Mr. Blakeslee explained the process of the redevelopment ordinance study and that there will be a public hearing on the study done by the planning board. It would then come back to the Council to make a decision on whether they want it. She wanted to know if the resolution approved tonight was for that project. Councilman Sylvester wanted clarification that this decision would come back to the governing body.

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

None held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk