

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 9, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes presented

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Seeing no one stepping forward, the mayor asked for a motion to close.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Presentation for Recreation Family Fun Day- Megabite Events

Howard Rosenblatt of Megabites Events – Food Truck Festival – Family / Fun Day on August 28th creates family friendly events and provides all necessary permits etc. He has 27 events set for this year. Megabites charges a fee for entry and shares the profits with the town. There will be food, music, games for kids. He will be in Morristown this week for pet palooza. He is here to answer any questions the Council may have. The mayor asked about liability insurance. Megabites will cover the cost of insurance. Councilman Sylvester asked about the alcohol permits- the permits will be handled by participating vendors supplied by Megabites. Councilman Sylvester stated that the fire dept. has done these types of events and could sponsor the ABC permit. He likes to use local breweries in his events. This will take place at Indians Field. There may be an issue because Indians Field is in Roxbury but Mr. Blakeslee will contact the manager there. Megabites already has 12 trucks set up for this event. Mr. Bucco asked if there is a hold harmless provision and agreement. The host committee would be in charge of advertising etc. Howard can provide his existing agreement for Mr. Bucco to review. The mayor asked how much police presence is necessary. Howard stated probably 3. He knows parking may be tricky at this location. He gave details of the amount of the fees to get into the event. The mayor asked if just the gate fee is shared with the borough. Chief Van Houten stated the Netcong PD would not be able to police the event, it would have to be Roxbury police. The percentage is negotiable depending on attendance. Ticket charges would be \$8 and \$5. The only costs to the borough are marketing and advertising which would include signs, social media etc. He promotes the events as well. He gave several examples of other towns' percentages. The mayor asked how he knows he can get 1500 people for this event. He gave details on how he can estimate that. Mr. Bucco suggested we do some more research before making a final decision. Howard stated we must start advertising right after July 4th. He thanked the Council for their time.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

None presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee reviewed the list of projects at the top of his report for the DOT. He wanted to make sure there were no objections or questions on these. He detailed several of these projects.

The mayor asked about sidewalks on Center St. Mr. Blakeslee will go back and check.

Mr. Blakeslee provided details for a meeting that took place today with the trail grant folks. This was a positive meeting. He called the state park official to ask for a letter of support. Mr. Blakeslee would like to move forward with these applications.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT

May 2022

RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTIONS

26 ALLEN ST
141 LEDGEWOOD AVE (3 UNITS)
1 MARC CT
2 MARC CT
1 NORTH ST (4 UNITS)
29 NORTH ST
31 STOLL ST
23 MAIN ST (2 UNITS)
21 LEDGEWOOD AVE
117 LEDGEWOOD AVE
29 STOLL ST
31 STOLL ST
NETCONG HEIGHTS
BLDG 17/APT 4
BLDG 4/APT 8
BLDG 28/APT 7
BLDG 28/APT 12
BLDG 30/APT 7
BLDG 29/APT 7
BLDG 31/APT 8
BLDG 31/APT 12
BLDG 32/APT 7
BLDG 33/APT 8
BLDG 33/APT 10

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

14 DELL AVE – FENCE TORN DOWN/INGROUND POOL (TURNED OVER TO RALPH)
11 BROOKSIDE – TRUCK LOADS OF DIRT BEING REMOVED – (CALLED BYRAM CONSTRUCTION/PERMIT TO DO WORK GRANTED)
19 HIGHLAND AVE – TALL GRASS
75 ALLEN ST – TALL GRASS
23 HIGHLAND – TALL GRASS
84 ALLEN ST – TALL GRASS
16 MAIN ST – TALL GRASS
76 KOCLAS – TALL GRASS
56 RAILROAD AVE – TALL GRASS

31 LEDGEWOOD AVE – TALL GRASS
21 ALLEN ST – TALL GRASS
2 HELEN WAY – TALL GRASS
51 MAPLE AVE – TALL GRASS
1 WILTOP – TALL GRASS
109 WILTOP – TALL GRASS
BANK DRIVE THROUGH – TALL GRASS
NETCONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – TALL GRASS
ALL TALL GRASS COMPLAINTS WERE GIVEN LETTERS OF WARNING

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still read the finance report.
For the month of May 2022, the Borough had a total income of \$2,085,799.08 as compared to \$884,041.04 in May 2021.

For the month of May 2022:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2022 the Borough received \$2,911.00 compared to \$2,293.50 in 2021

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$34,721.35 in 2022 compared to \$16,730.49 in 2021.

This is largely due to the sale of the DPW Mason Dump Truck.

State Aid:

There was no state aid in either 2021 or 2022.

Grants in Aid:

The Borough received \$37,037.94 in 2022 while in 2021 we received \$1,090.40.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$2,011,128.79 in 2022 compared to \$863,926.65 in 2021.

The 2022 amount includes payment for the PILOT at 34 Bank Street.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$5,339,085.04 as opposed to \$5,053,368.79 in 2021.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that the Committee met with proposed Koch property developers who now hold interest on all the Koch properties from the corner to Togno's building. They are not proposing a mini mall but the only issue they have a need for is parking. They would include community parking in their project. The committee asked for

renderings next. There will be retail on the first floor and 2 floors of apartments above and are in a position to meet our codes with exception of the parking. Councilman Still stated it will only be 3 stories and the setback will be greater than what is required. The Victorian homes are not part of this project. The borough dictated the architecture must be Victorian or similar to the current buildings in town.

Mr. Blakeslee noted that they worked on the air conditioning situation on Jenny Lind. Landmark properties and will research what they can do to alleviate the situation. Councilman Hathaway stated they will have further discussions with Landmark to plant some arborvitae bushes. There was a brief discussion on this subject.

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

Councilman Sylvester read his reports. Police training continues on the training for the body worn cameras. Capital projects will move forward. Councilman Sylvester gave a brief description on the updates in the Fire Prevention Dept.

Police Department

Total Calls for Service

January = 700

February = 827

March = 821

April = 764

May = 819

Traffic Enforcement: 203

Radar: 60

Fire Department

Total Calls: 8

Drills: 4

Administrative Details:

Total Members: 52

Total Time Volunteered: 507 Hours, 25 Minutes

Fire Prevention

Inspections: 30

Violations: 155

Penalties: 0

Total Hours: 80

Ambulance

57 calls
29 trips to the hospital
Total time: 274 hrs 29 minutes

Department of Public Works J. Albensi R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi read the DPW report and well report
Mr. Hess gave a report on the repairs to the wells – parts are ordered
The mayor thanked the DPW for the work of the men in preparing for the parade.

D.P.W. Monthly Report June 2022

Road Department: Roxbury performed town wide street sweeping....Picked up 48 cy of grass, 32 cy of leaves, and 72 cy of brush.... Supported Farmers Market with trailer transport and message boards...Picked up and brought back message boards to the County for street sweeping and Memorial Day Parade...Prepped and put out flower pots on Main, Maple, and Ledgewood Ave as well as all Welcome to Netcong signs....Paint street and parking lines on Main and Maple...

Water Department: Repaired water service line on Maple Ave.... Performed May water meter readings....

Buildings & Grounds: Implemented Fire Marshall recommendations at DPW garage....

Parks & Recreation: Performed weekly grass cutting at all Borough properties.... Installed new laminate flooring at DiRenzo Park bathrooms and repaired door saddles....

Recycling Department: Met with County to discuss moisture contaminated dumpsters....

Other: Mike Canfield attended the annual virtual Clean Communities Conference

The well pumped 1,358,000 more gallons than last year

Recreation: T. Morton J. Albensi

Councilman Morton- May meeting Kristen Polster sworn in as new member.

Family Fun Day was discussed previously.

Qigong was canceled due to lack of attendance.

There will be a kids day in the park.

They will be adding a salsa night if they can find a band, which is expensive.

Dicks Sporting goods gave gift certificates for sports equipment.

The mayor offered maybe we can find a new instructor for qigong in the park

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

Dial a Ride, May1. 2022

Days of Service: 19

Miles: 860

of Stops: 48

Nutrition:2 people 10

Food Shopping: 40

of Meals on Wheels:19

Medical Appointments:33

Other Appointments:11

People Using Services:41

Cancels: 5

Denials: 0

Units: 168

Hours: 73.75

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Social Affair Permit – Our Lady of Assumption Society

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Mr. Blakeslee had something to add to his admin report. FJZ will have their planning board application memorialized. He wanted to state they have agreed to put an asphalt path across from their property. The mayor stated they agreed to put in a concrete sidewalk at the planning board meeting. Not an asphalt one. Mr. Bucco stated an asphalt sidewalk can become a liability. Councilman Hathaway stated the one on Rt. 46 is a problem now. spent a lot of time to change the sidewalk ordinance. The mayor asked "why would we not follow it?" The Council agrees this would have to go back to the planning board for a change.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway wants to discuss our animal feces ordinance. He gave an explanation that he has been having issues with this on a piece of property he maintains for a neighbor. He called the health department and was told this was an animal control issue not a board of health issue. Councilman Hathaway stated he spoke with the property owner and he has not given permission for dogs to be on his property. Mr. Blakeslee

stated he has looked into this situation this afternoon. He read the section of our ordinance that pertains to this. It is clear these feces need to be cleaned immediately if it is not on their own property. Mr. Bucco explained if you have a fenced in yard and your dog runs around and the feces is not picked up, that is private property, we cannot police that. Councilman Hathaway stated this is happening all over town. We need to do something about this. There was discussion among the Council on this subject. Chief Van Houten came forward to explain that there is video evidence of who the offender is. He can summons the offender. He stated they cannot summons someone if they have not witnessed the problem. Chief VanHouten said they can enforce this. He also stated it is difficult to enforce some of these situations. Chief VanHouten stated Detective Janoski has spoken to the owner of the dog and has given warning to curb her dog. This issue seems to be a problem at the new apartments at 34 BNK. The police chief suggested the public not get into altercations with offenders but to bring pictures to the police department so they can address it. There are also problems with unleashed dogs.

The Police Chief provided details on how they handle these types of issues.

Councilman Albensi asked about the grass at the school. Mr. Bernadette Dalesandro stepped forward to explain the lawn mower is being serviced at this time. She asked if the borough could mow the grass for them for graduation and field day. The Council agreed to this. The trimming will not be necessary.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2022-74-** To Renew Liquor Licenses for 2022-2023
2. **Resolution 2022-75 -** To Renew Anet's Pub Liquor License for 2022-2023
3. **Resolution 2022-76 -** To Renew Quick Chek Liquor License for 2022-2023

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2020-10-**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 Introduce Ordinance #2022-10 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-10 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 Morton 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 Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

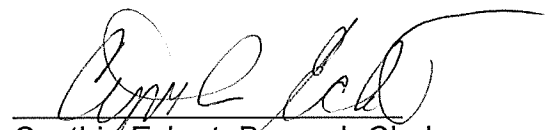
Business casual for summer was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:37PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk