

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD July 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 Still and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Joe Lamberto, Kings Rd., has needed the ambulance squad on 5 separate occasions. He explained the details of each occasion. On all five occasions the response was not from the Netcong- Stanhope ambulance squad. Outside ambulance services were the ones that arrived and he has been billed a large sum for each of these. His question is do we have an ambulance squad? The response was that we do have a squad but there was uncertainty about why they did not show up. The mayor asked if the occurrences were during the day. He stated 'no', four of them were in the evening Mr. Lamberto explained how Medicare refused to pay the bills so his insurance will not cover it either. He cannot remember a time when he would have to pay for an ambulance as in the past

our local ambulance squad would come to the calls. The mayor asked if he could provide the dates that these occasions occurred. Mr. Lamberto explained he did not remember. His concern is why our squad is not answering calls. He did state the police department was excellent, they arrived immediately and encouraged a trip to the emergency room. He stated when his wife fell at ShopRite, Wayne Anthony helped him to get home and get his groceries put away. He just wants to know what the rules are with these situations. The mayor was concerned with this situation and stated we will look into it. Mr. Lamberto stated everyone in town does a great job and he is not trying to make trouble. Mr. Lamberto thanked the Council for their time. Mr. Bucco stated the ambulance squad is called first, if there is no crew available, they will call the next service in line and they will be sent.

Ms. Pavia Kreigman, 14 Allen St., is here about the garbage ordinance. She is unhappy about this new can requirement. She stated she is especially concerned about garbage cans being left in the street. Not all areas of town are having issues with animals getting into garbage. She feels the bags are more convenient. The mayor stated it is not just the animals but trash blowing around on the streets and sidewalks. He explained that there are many other towns with this type of ordinance. He continued to say we are trying to stop this as well as animals coming into towns and neighborhoods. There was much discussion among the Council about this ordinance. Councilman Hathaway stated there has to be an enforcement tool available. This will only be used for those who are not diligent. If someone has bags that have been left on the curb and torn open, the Borough will have the ability to summons them. He provided examples of this. Councilman Laureys stated he uses a can with a lid, and the cans have been knocked over and garbage strewn on the street. He has also experienced the loss of his cans or lids due to the wind. He provided several suggestions on a solution to this problem. Brief discussion among the Council continued. Ms. Kreigman thanked the Council for their time.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ANNUAL AUDIT

VALERIE DOLAN – TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mrs. Dolan provided a brief description of the audit and thanked the Borough staff for their cooperation while they were here. She detailed the tax rate and the reasons for the slight decline in the tax rate. She talked about the water and sewer funds as well. She stated all in all across the board things were flat. She gave a review of the loans. She then gave a review of the capital fund. All in all, the Borough is in a very stable financial situation. There were two recommendations – one was the standard segregation of duties. The other was a small over-expenditure in water. Fixed assets are something that is in review and needs to be updated. She went on to explain details of what is required for fixed

assets. She asked if there were any questions. Mr. Blakeslee stated it is always a pleasure to work with Val and she can be contacted at any time and she will respond. The mayor asked how we are doing with looking at the reserves and debt for the close of 2023. She provided answers for both. She stated the debt is consistently being paid down. There is a reserve set aside for storm recovery and payouts for sick and vacation time and gave details of that. She stated it would be prudent to build up the storm recovery reserve to help future budgets. There are reserves in all the trust funds. The other reserve is set aside for tax appeals.

1. **Resolution #2022-83** -Certification of the Annual Audit.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Resolution #2022-84** -To Approve the 2021 Corrective Action Plan.

A motion to approve the Corrective Action Plan was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2022-10** - 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 2022-10 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2022-10 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee stated the only update is the Allen Terrace resolution. He thanked Mr. Bucco for preparing the resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: **E. Still** **J. Sylvester**

Councilman Still thanked Mayor Pompilio who passed away recently for his years of service and accomplishments to/for the Borough. He will be missed.

For the month of June 2022, the Borough had a total income of \$171,823.36 as compared to \$258,508.64 in June 2021.

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA): In 2022 the Borough received \$4,559.16 compared to \$3,072.77 in 2021

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees: The Borough received \$7,514.44 in 2022 compared to \$9,144.02 in 2021.

State Aid: There was no state aid received in 2022 and \$163,858.62 received in 2021.

Grants in Aid:

The Borough received \$6,826.20 in 2022 while in 2021 we received \$6,567.57.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$152,923.56 in 2022 compared to \$75,865.66 in 2021. The 2022 amount includes a payment for the PILOT at 34 Bank Street.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$5,535,908.40 as opposed to \$5,311,877.43 in 2021.

Economic Development: **R. Hathaway** **E. Still**

Councilman Hathaway stated there is not much that is not already covered in the administrators report.

- Crown Walk has the sewage line tie in completed.

- The Isolatek building has been purchased again as well as 3 Bank St.
- Mt. View at Netcong proposed St. Michael's property area of redevelopment paperwork will be available soon and will go to the planning board for evaluation.
- Koch property is developing plans and drawings.
- Highlands draft report will be available next Tuesday.
- The bagel shop should be opening soon.

Councilman Laureys asked for an explanation of the process for the Mt. View area of redevelopment plan. Councilman Hathaway and Mr. Blakeslee explained the process to him. Councilman Laureys reiterated the process to be sure he understood the timeline. Mr. Blakeslee offered to draw up a timeline for the Council.

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

Councilman Laureys read the fire and police reports in Councilman Sylvester's absence. Body cams are now in use. Councilman Still asked if the officers are wearing them now. The Chief stated everyone will be 'live' tomorrow July 15th.

Police Department

Total Calls for Service for June: 742

Selective Enforcement Traffic: 60

Radar: 59

Fire Department

Total Calls: 14

Drills: 2

Administrative Details: 3

Total Members: 41

Total Time Volunteered: 77 Hours, 32 Minutes

Fire Prevention

Inspections: 42

Violations: 1

Penalties: 1

Total Hours: 54.5

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report July 2022

Road Department: Picked up 48 cy of grass and 60 cy of brush....Repaired catch basins on Stoll St, Center St and Amendola Dr....Started paving potholes around town....

Water Department: Started performing town wide water valve exercising...

Sewer Department: Attended pre construction meeting for Crown Walk sewer tie in to Flanders Rd sewer main.....

Buildings & Grounds: Filled water pots twice and watered Welcome to Netcong locations....Performed weekly lawn cutting of all Borough properties....Repaired a damaged lock at Indian Field field house....

Recycling Department: Joe Fiorello completed the annual recycling tonnage report....

Other: Assisted in hanging bat houses for Caleb Clegg's eagle scout project....Austin Popelka is on disability from a motorcycle accident and will be out till approximately Nov recovering from a knee surgery....DPW assisted in launching the weed harvester.... The Park and Ride and the Netcong Recycle Center were milled and re-paved....

Water: Netcong pumped 1,393,500 gallons more in 2022 than in 2021.

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

Councilman Morton reported:

1. Concerts in the park are underway.
2. Don Jose is donating appetizers and the local dance studio will be conducting the salsa dancing night on July 15th.
3. Much work is being done for the Family Fun night to be held on August 28th.

Public Services:

T. Laureys

T. Morton

(Human Services

Recycling & Solid

Waste Disposal

Dial a Ride, June

Days of Service: 20

Miles: 894

of Stops: 65

Nutrition: 2 people:10

Food Shopping: 2

of Meals on Wheels:18

Medical Appointments: 40

Other Appointments: 21

People Using Services: 44

Cancels: 5

Denials: 0

Units: 162

Hours: 86.5

Additional Notes: no bus 6-7 (repair)ShopRite day

OLD BUSINESS

None Presented

NEW BUSINESS

None Presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway wanted to point out the space across the street from ShopRite has been completed. There are pavers and the pots provided by the NCP which have been installed.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The master plan review committee is ending the 3rd round. Paul Phillips will process the report. The report will be coming to the Council.

Mr. Blakeslee gave a contract to the mayor that would handle a transaction for the two reservoir properties at no cost to the Borough. Mr. Blakeslee provided details on this issue. Mr. Bucco stated this has been done before with a professional services contract and several other avenues. Councilman Hathaway wanted to be sure this is a benefit for the town. There was discussion among the Council on this issue.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2022-85**- Approval to Submit a Local Aid Infrastructure Fund (LAIF) Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with The New Jersey Department of Transportation for The Route 46 Sidewalk Extension Project.
2. **Resolution 2022-86**- To Appoint Linda Medina as Administrative Assistant, Water/Sewer Clerk
3. **Resolution 2022-87**- Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 for the Brookside Road, Locust Street, Dogwood Rd. and Helen Way Improvements by ADG Contracting, Corp., Trading as Crossroads Paving
4. **Resolution 2022-88**- A Resolution Authorizing The Award Of A Contract Top. M. Construction Corp. For The Allen Terrace Road Resurfacing Project In The Borough Of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

A Motion was made to approve the four above mentioned resolutions by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2022-11** - An Ordinance To Amend Article I, "General Provisions, Of Chapter 157, "Fire Prevention", Of The Code Of The Borough Of Netcong

Councilman Still asked if the wording was changed. Councilman Laureys stated the changes have been made. He is concerned about the word cause. Mr. Bucco explained why the way it is written is the best for the Borough. He recommends leaving it as it is and the reason for that. There was a brief discussion among Councilman Laureys and Mr. Bucco on this subject.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-11 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-11 on the First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

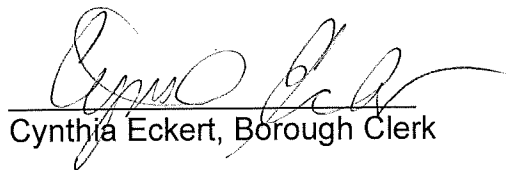
None held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:36PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk