

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD August 11, 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 Laureys, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 24 Dell Ave. Netcong stated he had a request. In 1966, a drain pipe was installed and he explained where it is. There is an empty lot that is being renovated and he asked the owner to be careful to not break this pipe. He is concerned that if the pipe is broken there would be houses under water. The owner did not care about the pipe. Mr. Blakeslee had been contacted by Mr. Anthony and has been handling it. Mr. Anthony would like to know if the town has a camera that can be used to find out where the pipe goes. Mr. Anthony stated there have been two contractors so far. The second contractor is working on it now. Mr. Anthony explained the history of the installation of the pipe and how previous owners gave permission for this pipe to run as advised. There was already a sewer break from this project. Councilman Sylvester suggested we issue a stop work

order until this issue has been settled. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject about the function and location of this drain pipe. Councilman Laureys asked where Mr. Anthony received the documentation on this pipe. He stated it was from a long-time neighbor. Councilman Laureys asked if it is legal to have this pipe on their property Mr. Bucco stated you cannot have a drainage pipe that drains into the lake. Councilman Sylvester stated there are already drain pipes that go into the lake. Councilman Laureys asked if we can remove this pipe. Councilman Sylvester stated the only concern about this pipe is that the integrity of it is maintained and no damage will be done. There was further discussion on drainage pipes near the lake. One has to be sure the contractor calls for the mark outs. Councilman Sylvester stated we should stop the job until the mark outs are done. Mr. Anthony thanked the Council for their time. The Mayor requested Mr. Blakeslee call the engineer tomorrow.

Ms. Pavia Kriegman of 14 Allen St. is here today about the complaint letter that was on the agenda. She would like to give her opinion on the St. Cesario and Assumption Fireworks. She would like to know why mortars need to be set off at 7:00 am and all day long to disrupt the lives of residents. She has no problem with this tradition but wants to know if this will change. The Mayor stated he has been here 40 some years. The first year he was disturbed as well. He stated these are religious ceremonies that have been going on for years. She asked if there are smaller mortars. The Mayor explained why they are set off. Councilman Sylvester explained deceased members are honored by setting off the mortars and it is a 100 year tradition that has come from the town's Italian heritage. Councilman Laureys added that traditions can change but can take a long time. He explained how it has changed since he was a young boy. He explained there are complaints and we also know there are those in town who want to carry on these traditions. He suggested she write to the organizations with her concerns. She does not want to put her name out there. He gave lengthy suggestions on how to affect change. She stated the town issues permits. Councilman Sylvester stated these types of events go on in other towns in the state.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

Ordinance 2022-11- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I, "GENERAL PROVISIONS, OF CHAPTER 157, "FIRE PREVENTION", OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2022-11 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2022-11 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Complaint Letter – Fireworks
To be filed.

Email - Anna Erickson– Approval for Kings Rd. Block Party – September 10, 2022 - 11am- 9pm

A motion to approve this request was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee highlighted the projects that are going out. He noted Jen and Ricky should be commended for their work to get these bids out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still read his report.
For the month of July 2022:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA): In 2022 the Borough received \$4,876.50 compared to \$132,130.70 in 2021
The 2021 number reflects the Wiltop Road sale.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees: The Borough received \$13,488.38 in 2022 compared to \$4,307.29 in 2021.
Our interest on investments and court fees have driven this increase.

State Aid: We received \$178,335.62 in state aid for 2022 and while in 2021 we received \$9,477.00.

Grants in Aid:

The Borough did not receive anything in 2022 or 2021.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$470,003.27 in 2022 compared to \$1,362,854.61 in 2021..

The difference is a result of how the mortgage companies send their payments.

Income Total Year to Date: The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$6,202,612.17 as opposed to \$6,820,647.03 in 2021.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Chairman Still noted that there was not too much to report at this time.

- Waiting for Shoprite
- Meeting Scheduled for the Koch Property.
- There was a small fire at 34 Bank which occurred in our wetlands.

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

Councilman Sylvester stated the Borough is back in the Rt. 80 corridor grant area

Fire Department

Total Calls: 19, 6 were Mutual Aid calls

Drills: 2

Administrative Details: 3

Total Members: 44

Total Hours Volunteered: 195 hours and 29 minutes

Fire Prevention

Total Inspections: 46

Total Violations: 121

Safety Permits Issued: 6

Penalties: 1

Administration: 3

Total Hours: 88

Police

Total Calls: 751

Traffic Enforcement/Stop Interactions: 196

Radar: 63 Hours, concentration on the safe corridor on RT 46

Ambulance report for May

Total Calls: 77, 6 out of town

Total Patients: 42

Trips to Hospital: 28
Total Miles: 912
Total Time Volunteered: 296 hours 9 minutes

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities: J. Albensi R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi read the DPW and water operator report.

Road Department: Picked up 20 cy of grass and 48 cy of brush....Rebuilt catch basin on Maple Ave....Repaired sink hole in Boro Hall parking lot....Clean debris and weeds from sidewalk area at the Rt 183 wall....Prepped and place new flower pots on the new pavers across from Shop Rite....

Water Department: Repair water boxes at 5 Lake St and 71 RR Ave... Performed monthly water samples, final readings, and markout requests....Repaired water meter at 16 Barone St....Exercised water valves throughout town....

Sewer Department: Flanders Rd contractor installed new sewer manhole and lateral for connection to 2 Flanders Rd...

Buildings & Grounds: Removed American Flags after 4th of July....Filled water pots 3 times in July.... Installed new bollards at Boro Hall parking lot....straightened and replaced damaged signs around town....Cut grass at Boro properties

Parks & Recreation: Facilitated replacement of damaged light pole at Arbolino Park.... Trimmed tree near chess table at DiRenzo Park....

Snow: Painted the concrete interior walls of the salt shed

Other: Performed set up for the St Cesario feast including pick up and return of message boards, light towers and barricades, patched pot holes along parade route, assisted PD in procuring and set up of cones....

Water pumped: 2,245,500 more gallons pumped in 2022 than in 2021

Recreation: T. Morton J. Albensi

Councilman Albensi reported the following:

- Last concert this week
- Symphonics. A few rainouts but makeups were done.
- They did a last minute Christmas in July with various contests that originally got rained out.
- He asked for better police presence at the concerts in the park.

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

Waste Disposal

Councilman Laureys read the Dial a Ride report. The bus has been repaired. The Mayor stated we need to replace it soon. Mr. Blakeslee stated he has been working on it.

Dial a Ride July

Days of Service: 19

Miles: 757

Number of stops: 52

Nutrition for 2 people: 11

Food Shopping: 30

Meals on Wheels: 18

Medical Appointments: 32

Other Appointments: 19

People Using Services : 51

Cancels: 8

Denials: 0

Units: 168

Hours: 72.5

Addnl. Notes: Bus Repaired 7/14 through 7/22

OLD BUSINESS

None presented

NEW BUSINESS

None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Still offered that the fence on Allen Terrace has been damaged again. This has happened too many times. They are going to suggest to the owner that she put another large rock and the fence at an angle. The Council feels badly for the owner.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

None at this time.

PROCLAMATIONS

None presented

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 2022-91- Tax Refund Steven and Kelly Robinson 101 Allen St.

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

2. Resolution 2022- 92-Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Offered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to Fund the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

3. Resolution 2022- 93 – Amending the Master Technology Policy for the Borough of Netcong

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

4. Resolution 2022- 94 – Authorizing the Abatement of Property Maintenance Ordinance Violations by the Borough

Councilman Laureys asked who owns this property. It is not bank owned. The violation is for grass which has been an issue for neighbors.

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 3 No: Councilman Laureys

5. Resolution 2022- 95 –Authorizing Family Fun Day/Food Truck Festival at Arbolino Park in the Borough of Netcong

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

6. Resolution 2022- 96 – Authorizing A Memorandum of Understanding Between Mega Bite Events, LLC And the Borough of Netcong.

Memorandum #3 – Does this need to specifically say recreation. Councilman Albensi wants to be sure this will go to the recreation trust. Mr. Bucco stated there were many blank areas that need to be filled in so there is no misunderstanding between the borough and Mega Bytes. He stressed that this form must be filled in completely before he signs it. Mr. Bucco also has not seen the insurance certificates. Mr. Blakeslee stated we are waiting for an alcohol insurance certificate. Mr. Bucco went on to explain why we need to have coverage about the alcohol in case of a lawsuit. This way the borough would not be

the only insurance coverage. Mr. Bucco stated if he can provide the insurance it will be beneficial for the borough. We must be named as additional insured. Councilman Laureys asked if the proceeds go to the fire dept. Mr. Bucco stated we must get the percentage in the MOU and have him initial it. This resolution will be approved upon a finalized MOU.

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

Note: this is conditional upon a finalized MOU.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Ordinance 2022-12 – An Ordinance Amending The Code Of The Borough of Netcong To Provide For The Administration Of The Requirement Imposed By The State Of New Jersey For Lead-Based Paint Inspections Of Certain Residential Rental Dwellings And To Establish Fees For Inspections

Councilman Laureys had commented on this. The state has imposed this. Mr. Bucco explained the state has allowed municipalities to collect fees to pay for it. Councilman Laureys asked if the state has control over all towns. Mr. Bucco stated the state has powers over municipalities.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-12 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-12 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

2. Ordinance 2022-13 – An Ordinance to Amend Netcong Borough Code Section 194, Attachment 2, Schedules, to Include Requirements for Submission of Electronic Plans

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-13 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-13 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 4 Yes

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

BILLS

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Wayne Anthony of 24 Dell Ave. wanted to discuss the 811 markings and that the drains are not completed. Only electric, gas and water are marked out. The town has to find the stormwater drains. Mr. Bucco stated because it is a private line it is not clear cut that it is the borough's responsibility. Mr. Bucco asked if there are easements on each person's property. Mr. Bucco asked if it had been recorded at the county clerk's office. Mr. Blakeslee stated it looks like a legal document between owners. Mr. Bucco stated if the pipe is damaged the property owners would have to file a suit against the contractor. Mr. Bucco gave an explanation on why this may not have been passed on to new owners. There was further discussion on this subject and possible consequences if it is broken. There was further discussion on this issue and on the property improvements.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes


CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and approved by unanimous voice vote at 8:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk