

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD SEPTEMBER 1, 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 Hathaway, Councilman Morton, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk

### **HEATHER DARLING – SURROGATES OFFICE PRESENTATION**

Ms. Heather Darling thanked the Council for their time. She came this evening to inform the Council on what the surrogate's office does. She stated there have been many changes made over the last few years to meet the needs of many different types of people. They do probate, adoptions, guardianships, they keep assets in trust for underage beneficiaries. They also have a service similar to a public defender for those who need help with probating a will. They provide a citizen's guide to wills, trusts and estates. They have seminars online about directions on how to understand wills, trusts etc. She described some of the processes that took place in her office during covid that allowed them to continue services to the community. She described the new online platform that was produced to accommodate the needs during covid. She went on to explain the details of the experiences with this new program. She provided numbers on the number of probates and asset management that they did during this time. The surrogate office

produced a yearly report for the year in 2021 to bring transparency to the public. They have also created a personal record book to provide to the public. The main goal of the surrogate office is to provide kind service to the public during a very difficult time in their life. She gave some detail on the improvement with salaries and building improvements. They are working with Senator Bucco to provide e signatures and Senator Pennacio for electronic wills and documents. This will provide faster service. She gave information on their process to deal with the Daniel Law and how they can use online cloud systems for faster and protected service. Morrissurrogate.com provides all the information on these subjects. All of these improvements have been done without taxpayer monies. She is willing to speak with senior groups and others. She asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Blakeslee asked that sometimes we get people calling in for legal advice and we cannot recommend an attorney. She stated we could refer them to the Morris County Bar Association and Lawyer reduced Fee Referral Program. There are qualifying income levels. There was discussion on how we can get this information out to the public. The Mayor asked about software to do your own will. Can they do this and then send it to the surrogate office. She explained the difference between electronic wills (wills that can be signed and witnessed with people in different states and signed electronically) and paper online wills. The surrogate office does not have a catalog of wills. They only process wills for people who have passed and the will has been probated. She explained the process of probating the will. She thanked the Council for their time.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Ms. Rebekah Diehl, 16 Allen Terrace, asked about the speed bumps on Allen Terrace. Mr. Blakeslee explained the water main will be replaced and the street resurfaced which may need to be done in the spring. Then the speed tables will be installed. She thanked the Council for their time.

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 September 8, 2022.***

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – August 4, 2022  
Regular Meeting – August 11, 2022

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the August 4th minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the August 11th minutes.

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Hathaway and Councilman Morton

**2. Ordinance Adoptions – 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

This will be carried to the September 8th meeting.

**3. Ordinance Adoptions- Ordinance 2022-13 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND NETCONG BOROUGH CODE SECTION 194, ATTACHMENT 2, SCHEDULES, TO INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC PLANS

This will be carried to the September 8th meeting.

**4. Correspondence –** Email – Lynda McLennan, Landing – Fireworks

**5. Correspondence –** Letter – Harry Garlick Resignation  
Councilman Sylvester motioned with regrets and thanked him for his many years of service to the Borough

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

**6. Old Business:** none presented

**7. New Business:** none presented

**8. RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 2022-97 –** Establishing a Capital Reserve for the Purchase of a Senior Shuttle Vehicle

Councilman Hathaway asked if we had the funds for this. Mr. Blakeslee explained the process. There is an immediate need for this to be replaced. There was discussion among the Council on this subject and the details on replacement of the current vehicle. Councilman Laureys asked for clarification on the process of the funding. Mr. Blakeslee provided an explanation. There was discussion on the price.

**Resolution 2022-98-** To Renew Liquor License for Harris Holding LLC

**Resolution 2022-99-** Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of an Application for New Jersey Department of Transportation "Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**9. Ordinance Introduction – None presented**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Still noted that during the summer he became tired of the ice cream truck song and jokingly requested that it change.

Councilman Morton thanked everyone for their help with Family Fun Day. There were over 1200 people who attended. He will give a full report next week.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

None at this time.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

None presented

**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

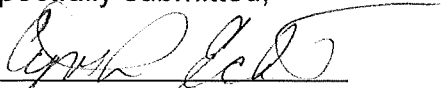
**CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session was not held.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and approved by unanimous voice vote at 8:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk