

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mrs. Theresa Vervaet of 46 Allen St., is here to discuss the constant truck problems in town specifically on Allen Terrace and Prospect St. She has spoken with the police chief, DPW superintendent and council members as well as the borough administrator. She had pictures showing the damage done to the properties nearby as well as trucks on small streets. Many people in town are having issues with this. She is grateful for the police officers, DPW workers and borough administrator for their cooperation dealing with this.

She would like to get the state involved as the problem stems from Route 183. She doesn't feel the residents of Netcong should be paying for signs to solve this problem. The Mayor thanked her for coming and explained this is a regular subject of the public safety committee. He explained there will be an ordinance introduced tonight to limit these large trucks on many of our roads. There was also discussion in the public safety committee to contact the truck GPS companies to improve their systems. The borough intends to contact the state on this issue. Mrs. Vervaet stated signs don't seem to be working. Councilman Albensi stated he had a confrontation with one of the truck drivers who stated he does not care about tickets. Councilman Sylvester stated the PILOT gas station and our close proximity to route 80 exacerbate this problem. Mrs. Vervaet requested the borough pursue this before a real accident happens.

Mr. Wayne Anthony of 24 Dell Ave. wanted to know if Water Street is included in the new ordinance. He also asked if this includes beer/wine delivery trucks. There was discussion among the Council about this issue. Mr. Anthony asked if a sign could be put on Water Street to state no truck traffic. It was determined these trucks are local delivery trucks that would not be included in this ordinance.

Mr. Steven Vervaet of 46 Allen St. is a crossing guard at Allen St. and Prospect. He stated the wide opening at the end of Prospect St. invites the trucks to take that route. He would like to know if we could narrow the entrance at the bottom of Prospect St. to discourage them from using that road. He said vehicles also use this to do U-turns which is dangerous. He suggested using Jersey barriers to see if it makes a difference. If it does, maybe something could be done to make a permanent solution. He said they also go through the stop sign there. There was discussion on the subject of the stop sign area. Councilman Hathaway would like to see Prospect St. turned into a one way to keep trucks from riding there as well as the danger of the stop signs. He stated this is a dangerous area, with line-of-sight issues, that will eventually result in an accident. There was discussion among the Council on the Prospect St. and Allen Terrace area and the great danger there. The owner on the corner of these streets has had to place a boulder on the corner which has been pushed 8 feet by the trucks and therefore was not a deterrent.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

- 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

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2022-12 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2022-12 was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

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 Read Ordinance 2022-13 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2022-13 was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT

AUGUST 2022

RENTAL INSPECTIONS

NETCONG HEIGHTS - ANNUAL RENTAL INSPECTION

BLDG 1 - 12 UNITS

BLDG 2 - 12 UNITS

BLDG 3 – 12 UNITS

BLDG 4 - 12 UNITS

BLDG 5 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 6 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 7 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 8-12 UNITS
BLDG 9-12 UNITS
BLDG 10 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 11 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 12 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 13 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 14 – 12 UNITS
BLDG 15 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 16 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 17 - 12 UNITS
BLDG 18 - 12 UNITS
NETCONG HEIGHTS - TENANT CHANGE
B2/A11
B 9/A4
B12/A9
B16/A11
B22/A1
B22/A8
B23/A5
B27/A1
B28/A4

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Still mentioned all department heads have received their packets for the 2023 budget.

For the month of August 2022, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$2,390,920.94 as compared to \$1,345,697.17 in July 2021.

For the month of August 2022:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2022 the Borough received \$4,603.00 compared to \$1,693.50 in 2021

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$22,103.15 in 2022 compared to \$16,948.66 in 2021.

State Aid: We received \$176,357.70 in state aid for 2022 and \$176,357.70 in 2021.

Grants in Aid:

The Borough received \$11,846.70 in 2022 and \$21,652.56 in 2021.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$2,111,828.74 in 2022 compared to \$1,065,488.10 in 2021.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$8,593,533.11 as opposed to \$8,166,344.20 in 2021.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway and committee met with developers of the Koch property and have been in touch with the planner to approach the planning board to qualify the area as an area of rehabilitation. This would provide a 5-year window to allow them to have some parking considerations. This is the main assistance needed for this area. He stated the new plans provide a good amount of parking which is the main benefit to this development. They will be coming to do a presentation for the Council eventually. Councilman Hathaway stated the latest plan has met the requests of the Council. They are asking for 2 floors of residential as opposed to office space. This area is zoned for 3 floors. Councilman Hathaway stated he knows there is concern among the Council about the 3-story building. Councilman Laureys asked if there was enough parking with the old buildings. Councilman Hathaway stated no, the previous building was allowed to count the street parking as part of their development which is improper. Councilman Hathaway gave details on this issue. He stated the big gain with this new plan provides a greater amount of property. The mayor also stated this new parking lot would be able to be used by all, it would not be exclusive to the new building. There was further discussion on this project among the Council. Councilman Sylvester asked if there will be more plans to be viewed. Mr. Blakeslee stated in previous projects presentations were done for the Council. Councilman Sylvester asked if the Council could see more renderings before a formal presentation is done so the Council will have a chance to digest them. There was discussion about the setbacks and that the new building will be set back much further from the street as the old building. Councilman Hathaway gave details on this and how the committee has really put restrictions on these developers. Councilman Hathaway stated they will be coming back to the committee one more time before they do a formal presentation to the Council. It was agreed the rendering will be passed to the entire Council for review.

Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

T. Laureys

Councilman Sylvester stated during the police report some signs erected collect data on speeds and numbers of cars. He gave several examples of streets in town that have these signs and the results of the data collected. He stated the 4 way stops and stop signs erected have made a difference in speeding on local streets.

He stated the fire department participated in the Boonton Labor Day parade and took trophies in several areas. He added that the fire prevention bureau has collected funds from previous years. They have also been selected to receive fire detectors to hand out to those in need. The bureau has vastly improved.

Fire Prevention:

Total Inspections: 32

Total Violations: 80

Permits Issued: 18

Penalty Money Collected: \$108

Total Hours: 61.5

Additional Notes: Assisted the FD with three follow ups.

Fire Department

Total Calls: 20

Drills: 4

Administrative Details: 5

Total Members: 47

Total time Volunteered: 185 hours and 21 minutes

Police

Calls for Service: 662

Building Property check: 128

Selective Enforcement Traffic: 42

Radar: 47

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi read the road department report and water operator report. Councilman Still asked about the static levels. Councilman Albensi read them. Water restrictions will be kept in place for now.

D.P.W. Monthly Report September 2022

Road Department: Paved various pot holes, basin repair areas, and re-patched

previous water repair trenches....Picked up 16 cy of grass and 32 cy of brush....
Installed a large rock on the corner of Prospect St and Allen Terr to combat truck
traffic...

Water Department: Replaced a broken water service line on Dell Ave.... Performed
August water meter readings....

Sewer Department: Did preventative sewer main cleaning on Rt. 46, Allen St, and
Flanders Rd....

Buildings & Grounds: Cut grass where needed at Borough locations....Coastal clock
and chime was in to perform service on the Main St clock and Wires Electric was in to
replace non-working ballasts in the clock... Repaired and realigned broken spindles on
Main St gazebo.... Watered flowers and filled pots twice in August....Cleaned and
trimmed the area behind Borough Hall....

Snow: Painted and sealed the salt shed at DPW garage....

Other: Helped prepare for family fun day and the Assumption Fireworks by assisting
with lighting, messages, barricades, cones, and garbage...

Water pumped: 2,721,000 gallons more in 2022 than 2021.

Recreation: *T. Morton* *J. Albensi*

Councilman Morton held a food truck festival that had 1100 people. They raised
\$2000.00. He thanked everyone involved for making this a great day. He stated for the
1st year it was a great success.

The summer concerts have ended, many of the bands will return. They are also looking
for several new bands.

They will be holding a costume exchange for Halloween.

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

Dial a ride Report: August
Days of Service: 21
Miles: 924
Number of Stops: 65
Nutrition, 2 people: 16
Food Shopping 33
of Meals on Wheels: 17
Medical Appointments: 43

Other Appointments: 24
People using Services: 36
Cancels: 5
Denials: 0
Units: 154
Hours: 81.5

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Sylvester had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Laureys brought up a letter from Mr. Fredericks, the NCP president who was asking for \$10,000 contributions. Councilman Laureys stated he does not think the general tax fund and tax payers should be contributing money to the NCP. The mayor provided some details of NCP progress. The mayor stated "so noted" to Councilman Laureys.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to know if we can work on the grant for trail connectivity. A sidewalk is needed and he wants to know where this stands. Mr. Blakeslee stated they attended a meeting with Morris County trails grant program which does not appear to be viable. He stated there are several other application possibilities. Mr. Blakeslee gave details on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee was disappointed with the trail grant application. The mayor asked if this was a done deal. Mr. Blakeslee stated he received an email stating it was not well received by them and would not be possible. Mr. Blakeslee stated our engineer is looking for other options.

Councilman Hathaway would like to see some direction from the Council to consider a one way on Prospect St. Mr. Oostdyk filling in for Mr. Bucco stated this can be discussed with the police. Councilman Sylvester stated this could be discussed now. The police chief stated he thinks this one way is a good idea to resolve this issue. Councilman Albensi suggested the one way could just be from Allen Terrace down to Allen St. Police Chief Van Houten stepped forward to discuss this issue. There was discussion among the Council on this concept. Councilman Hathaway stated the only issue with this may increase traffic on Allen Terrace. Mr. Van Houten stated making Allen Terrace a one-way street is being considered. There was discussion making Allen Terrace going out onto Rt. 183. He also stated two do not enter signs at the entrance of Allen St. will deter trucks

from entering. The police chief stated there is not one solution to this problem. There was discussion among the Council on this problematic issue. Mr. Blakeslee asked if one could dedicate a street to be one way during certain hours. He gave detail on signs he has seen in his town. The police chief's recommendation is to make Prospect St. a one way all the way down. This could still cause issues on other streets. Mr. Oostdyk stated you can do an ordinance for this, if it does not work it can be changed. Chief Van Houten stated these changes may not help with the trucks but it will help with cars making u turns. Councilman Sylvester asked if they could take small steps first and use Councilman Albensi's idea of only making Prospect a one-way street only on the bottom. Mr. Van Houten noted putting speed tables on Allen Terrace is going to be difficult due to the driveway configurations. There was further discussion among the Council on the subject of speed tables.

It is decided among the Council that one-way street ruling should be enforced on Prospect St. from Allen Terrace to Allen Street.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2022-100** – Rejecting all Bids Received for the Recycling Center Pole Barn and Authorizing the Borough Administrator to Re-Advertise for Bids for Said Project

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PROCLAMATIONS

The Mayor Read the following:

Whereas, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and;

Whereas, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday, and;

Whereas, 46 children per day or 16,790 children per year are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S., and;

Whereas, there are approximately 40,000 children on active treatment at any given time, and;

Whereas, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, compared to 66 years for adults' cancer diagnosis, and;

Whereas, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease, and;

Whereas, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years, and;

Whereas, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening, and;

Whereas, approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe, and;

Whereas, in the last 20 years only four new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer, and;

Whereas, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out;

Whereas, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the WITH Grace Initiative and many others are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional and financial support, and;

Whereas, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, and;

Whereas, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure.

Now therefore, I, Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor of the Borough of Netcong, do hereby proclaim September 2022 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Netcong New Jersey.

I encourage all Americans to observe Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and support this cause that so deeply impacts families in every community across our country.

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a proclamation presented by Mayor Nametko on September 8, 2022.

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2022-14-** BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A SENIOR CITIZENS BUS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$110,000 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 Ordinance #2022-14 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

There was discussion from the Council that this new vehicle will need to be maintained and washed regularly to keep it in good shape.

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-14 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Ordinance 2022-15- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 268 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL ROADWAYS SUBJECT TO A HEAVY VEHICLE EXCLUSION.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-15 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Councilman Hathaway expressed his concerns about Flanders Rd. and Waterloo Valley Rd.

The police chief stated certain trucks will be exempt on these roads so they would like them to remain on the list.

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-15 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 Sylvester 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 Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

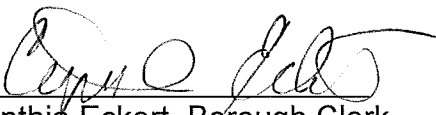
CLOSED SESSION

None held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:44PM. It was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk