

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2022 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nametko 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 Laureys, Councilman Morton, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Montelione, 5 Locust St., is continuing discussion on the proposed development in his neighborhood. The residents feel this development will ruin their quiet neighborhood. He noted the traffic that is already in this area. He is concerned about the safety of the neighbors. He feels no traffic should be entering onto Church St. with the exception of emergency vehicles. Netcong has been a great place for him to live and he has been here for 20 years. He would like the Councilman who voted yes to give an explanation of why they voted yes. He thanked the Council for their time.

Mr. Patrick Derosa, 86 Wiltop Rd., added to Mr. Montelione's statements. He estimated the new development would produce about 60 cars in that area. He feels this will cause a lot of issues with traffic as there are already issues with traffic in this area. He understands an emergency vehicle entrance onto Church St. but not public traffic.

Because there are no sidewalks on these streets, people walk on the road and this could cause a safety issue. The Mayor thanked him.

Mr. Stefano Polo, Church St., is concerned about parking. He has heard there would be shared parking with the church. He has heard that there is not enough parking at 34 Bank St. He would like to know how many units have been approved. The Mayor explained whatever type of building goes there will have to have enough parking for the number of units. He explained the church will have to come up with parking spaces for them. The Mayor stated there has been no decision on how many units will be put in there. Councilman Hathaway added that the way the land use law is written, the garages are considered as parking spaces. The garages not being used for cars are causing a parking issue. He detailed the requirements for parking. He explained if the area of redevelopment is not approved, the developer will be able to do whatever they want which includes the traffic and parking issues. He stated the Council would consider this issue and learn from the 34 BNK development when the issue of traffic and parking is concerned. He wanted to know what meeting will be available to the public to give their opinions on this development. Councilman Hathaway stated again if the area of redevelopment is not approved there will be no discussion. The developer will be able to do whatever they want to do. Councilman Laureys asked for clarification on the fact that without the area of redevelopment approval the developer could put in roads wherever they want. Councilman Hathaway stated they can do whatever they want as long as it is within the land use law limits. There was discussion among the Council on these issues. Mr. Blakeslee stated the planning board would make the decision on where streets and parking areas would be. He explained that if the developer goes with the standard development without an area of redevelopment, they would go directly to the planning board and the Council would have no decision making in this project. If there is an area of redevelopment approved the Council will have more control on the choices that are made. Mr. Polo is concerned about the church parking as this is already an issue. The Mayor stated no one parks in the parking lot now. They park on the street. Councilman Hathaway stated none of these decisions have been made at this time. He stated there has been no official count for parking at this time. The Mayor stated with this area of redevelopment the Council/borough would have a say on what can be done. He thanked the Council for their time.

Mr. Pat Kunkel, 13 Church St., is a bit confused because there was a vote taken at last month's meeting. He wants to know why this is coming up again. The Mayor stated a resolution must be completed. Councilman Sylvester stated this was already voted down and why are we bringing this up again. Councilman Laureys suggested we consult our attorney about bringing this back up again. He stated we voted against this already. There was discussion among the Council on this matter. Councilman Laureys asked for a copy of the recording of last month's meeting. Mr. Kunkel asked if this vote was not to count, would a resolution be done at the next meeting. Councilman Hathaway stated the resolution has already been drawn up. He stated bringing this up for a vote at the last meeting was an error on his part. This will not be taken up this weekend.

Mr. David Costanzo, 27 Prospect St., is concerned they are setting a precedent to say they are bringing this back up for a vote when it has already been voted down.

Mr. Good Citizen, Netcong, The Mayor recognized Mr. Good Citizen as Chris Farrell and addressed him by his name. Mr. Good Citizen requested that his name be redacted from the record. He asked about the church parking lot. Councilman Hathaway stated the church is grandfathered in. Mr. Good Citizen noted that because of the vote that was taken last month it should not be brought up again.

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 24 Dell Ave., is a member of the planning board. He has a complaint about the chairs on the dais. He would like to know if these chairs can be replaced. These chairs are a safety issue. Councilman Laureys provided his comment about these chairs. The Mayor stated it will be considered in the budget.

Ms. Kelly Codd, Burt St., would like to know if there can be anything done about the speeders on Allen St. and Burt St. She is concerned there will be an accident in that area. Councilman Sylvester stated he would bring it up at the safety committee meeting.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

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 November 10, 2022.

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – October 6, 2022
Regular Meeting – October 13, 2022

A motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the October 6 meeting minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the October 13 meeting minutes.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Still

2. **Ordinance Adoptions- Ordinance –2022-16**

To be carried to the November 10th meeting.

3. **Correspondence** – Letter – Michael Downing – 49 Main Street

There was brief discussion among the Council on this matter.

4. **Correspondence** - Notice of Public Hearing – Terrace St. Old Reservoir Property

5. **Old Business** – Planning Board Resolution - Area in Need of Redevelopment

6. **Old Business** – Solid Waste Collection Contract
7. **Old Business** – Morris County MUA – Recycle Curbside Pick-up Agreement
8. **New Business**- Best Practices Worksheet
Mr. Blakeslee stated we scored acceptably for this year
9. **Resolution 2022-106**–2023 Holiday Schedule
10. **Resolution 2022-107** – Authorizing the Purchase of a New Dial-A-Ride Senior Bus Through the Houston-Galveston Area Council (“HGAC”) Cooperative Pricing Program
11. **Resolution 2022-108**- To Award the Contract for the Recycling Center Pole Barn to Dutchman Contracting, LLC
12. **Resolution 2022-109** – Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Lexipol, LLC to Provide Policy Management Services for the Netcong Borough Police Department
13. **Resolution 2022-110**- Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Hopatcong for Animal Control Services

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

14. **Ordinance Introduction** – None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Laureys: last week he was asked why he changed his mind on the redevelopment after seeing the developer’s presentation. He stated we represent the people and we should vote for what the people want. The audience cheered his comment. He stated we had a motion and a vote for what the people wanted. This is how the government should work. Let us honor the public’s opinion.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

PROCLAMATION

None presented

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION


No closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:07PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk