

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None were presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor polled the Council on moving Ricky Proctor's presentation regarding the street conditions from new business to this portion of the meeting. The Council agreed. Mr. Proctor stepped forward to present his report. He provided all at the dais a copy of his report. Mr. Blakeslee provided a brief introduction of this new employee,

Mr. Proctor introduced himself and thanked the Council for hiring him and that he is enjoying his time in Netcong. He explained how he created the reports and detailed the process. He then proceeded to explain the steps taken to produce his report. He offered that we now have a comprehensive report on all roads in Netcong which was not available in the past. He continued to provide further details from his report. He later explained the roads are constantly changing and this report will not be able to be updated every year but this is a baseline report. He noted the benefits from this project. He told the Council that they are free to look at his binder which contains all the details regarding this evaluation. He asked the Council if they had any questions. Councilman Still thanked Mr. Proctor for doing a good job on this project. The Council agreed. Councilman Laureys asked a detailed question on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee asked how he developed this report. Mr. Proctor stated he did research into what different states were doing. He chose one and then created his own report to be relevant to the borough.

Mr. Blakeslee stated this is just one project that Mr. Proctor has been working on. He asked Mr. Proctor what else he has been working on. Mr. Proctor stated he has become the webmaster and swift reach administrator. He switched our phone services and cyber security policies. He has been working on saving utility costs. He has completed the change over from swift reach to rave. He had a fixed asset company come in to update. He has done many of the bid specs and the new lead-based law. He has just completed a mailing to all landlords who may have properties with lead-based paint. He also worked on some grants. The Mayor thanked Ricky Proctor for a great job.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee made several comments. The Koclas Dr. improvements were discussed with Mr. Canfield and the engineer, Mr. Ruschke, today. He provided details of this conversation and the issue with curb cuts on the lake side of the street. He would like an opinion from the Council on how to handle this issue. The state would like those to be replaced with regular curbing. The consent of the Council is to remove the curb cuts. He also had the West St. vacate for Mr. Dellamo. Mr. Dellamo would like to combine the lots that run on either side of this paper street. He would like to know if the Council is agreeable with this. The Council had no objection.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2022
RENTAL INSPECTIONS/RESALE INSPECTIONS
37 RAILROAD AVE
102 ALLEN ST - 2 UNITS

23 ALLEN
51 MAIN
37 RAILROAD AVE
53 MAIN ST
93 ALLEN ST-2 UNITS
59 MAIN ST
36 KOCLAS DR
100 MAIN ST - 2 UNITS
18 LEDGEWOOD AVE
1 NORTH ST - 3 UNITS
NETCONG HEIGHTS-7 UNITS/CHANGE OF TENANTS
12 ALLEN ST
21 STOLL ST
23 STOLL ST
36 ALLEN ST - 2 UNITS
39 DELL AVE - 2 UNITS
16 BARONE - 2 UNITS
47 ALLEN ST
20 LEDGEWOOD AVE
18 BARONE-2 UNITS
22 LEDGEWOOD AVE
21 BARONE - 2 UNITS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still read his report. He stated all requests have been submitted for the 2023 budget. The Mayor stated it might be advantageous to review all requests with department heads in reference to their capital requests.

For the month of November 2022, the Borough had a total income of \$1,318,320.42 as compared to \$2,198,608.54 in November 2021.

For the month of November 2022:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2022 the Borough received \$3,736.50 compared to \$3,923.50 in 2021

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$23,393.76 in 2022 compared to \$4,792.32 in 2021.

State Aid:

We received \$37,892.14 in state aid for 2022 and \$39,960.37 in 2021.

Grants in Aid:

The Borough received \$83,849.00 in 2022 and \$1,403.14 in 2021.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,169,449.02 in 2022 compared to \$2,148,529.21 in 2021.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$11,938,379.48 as opposed to \$11,187,102.92 in 2021.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that the committee asked the fire inspection official to check the occupancy allowed at the church. The fire official stated the maximum would be 399 people. They have asked the planner to establish the parking number based on the maximum. The parking determined will be required for any redevelopment. He then provided details regarding the issue of entrance onto Church St. from this development. He spoke with the planner about a plan for the downtown proposed development of the Koch properties and the need for rehabilitation and flexibility to encourage other business owners in town to improve their buildings as well. It would also give possible abatements to those with hardships. There was also discussion about downtown parking and the entrance of a parking kiosk. This does not have to be fee driven but document driven. This would help to monitor the amount of time a car is parked in the downtown area. There is nothing from the planner yet on this issue. Councilman Sylvester stated maybe the business owners downtown can be surveyed to see if they are interested. Councilman Hathaway stated those who attend the SID meetings have a positive response to paid parking. Councilman Hathaway stated this is public parking and not meant to be spaces for each individual business on Main St. He stated this may be contentious just as the parking at Polo's was. Councilman Laureys stated parking is a real issue for business owners and gave several details on why he feels this way. Councilman Hathaway reiterated that the Council is waiting for the planner to give his report and continued to explain why this issue needs to be addressed. There was discussion among the Council regarding these parking issues including the parking issues at the church. The Mayor stated he feels the Council will have to consider a shorter limit of time on Main St. There was further discussion on the parking issues and the possible solutions.

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

Councilman Sylvester read his reports. There will be a report on the purchase of a new fire truck for the February meeting.

Ambulance Corp: July

Total Calls: 76

Total Patients: 52

Miles Traveled: 997 Miles

Hours Volunteered: 248 Hrs 21 Mins

Ambulance Corp: August

Total Calls: 73

Total Patients: 39

Miles Traveled: 780 Miles

Hours Volunteered: 176 Hrs 56 Mins

Fire Department, November:

Total Calls: 9

General Alarms: 7

Squad Assists: 0

Mutual Aid: 2

Drills: 4

Administrative Details: 4

Total Members: 44

Total Time Volunteered: 180 Hours & 25 Minutes

Police Department

Total Calls: 628

Traffic Enforcement/Stop: 121

Building/Property Check: 88

Medical Assist: 27

Administrative Duties: 83

Fire Prevention:

Total Inspections: 25

Bureau Total Hours: 38 Hours

Additional Monthly Notes: Inspector Boylan completed the IAAI Basic Fire Investigator Course at Passaic County Fire Academy. Handled 2 Fire Department follow ups. Performed two joint inspections with Zoning Officials. Three new Fire Dept. Knox Boxes were put into service. Completed all required State Life Hazard Use Inspections. Bureau prepped for vehicle acquisition.

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi read his report. He also stated Mr. Jozowski has submitted his resignation. An advertisement will go out for both a laborer and operator. He has accepted a full time job as a firefighter. The Mayor was grateful for the 30-day notice.

Road Department: picked up 24 cy of brush and 96 cy of leaves started cleaning borough storm drains continued curbside leaf clean up program

Water Department: performed November meter readings PM Const completed new water main installation and service line installation on Allen Terrace, basin repairs and paving to take place in the spring ...

Buildings & Grounds: installed winter banners and Christmas decorations thru downtown area ... installed American flags for veterans day

Parks & Recreation: closed and winterized bathrooms at borough parks

Snow: continued preparation of vehicles and equipment for winter season

Other: Tim Hess continued classes and testing for CPWM license ... Joe Fiorello continued classes and testing for Certified Recycling Professional. ...

Recreation: T. Morton J. Albeni

Councilman Morton reported that the Holiday Parade and Tree lighting was successful. He thanked the fire department, police department and DPW for working and the Council members for attending. A paint and sip was held last night. There were 27 attendees and proceeds will go toward the new playground. They will be holding a father daughter dance on February 14th. The Council stated they had several people give positive comments on the parade and how wonderful it was. The Council was happy to hear there are some new events.

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

Councilman Laureys read his report. The Mayor asked when the new Dial a Ride bus will arrive. Mr. Blakeslee stated he was told it would be the week of Christmas.

Dial A Ride: November
Days of Service: 19
Miles: 904
of Stops: 54
Nutrition, 1 person: 11
Food Shopping: 37
of Meals on Wheels: 17
Medical appointments: 32
Other Appointments: 20
People Using Services: 35
Cancels: 6
Denials: 0
Units: 180
Hours: 78.75
Additional note: 3 Holidays in November

OLD BUSINESS

Winter Parking: the Mayor asked if the Council had time to review the sample ordinances. There was discussion among the Council on this subject. The consensus among the Council is to keep it simple. The Mayor asked if the Council would prefer to keep the rules as they are now for Main St. There was discussion among the Council on this. Councilman Hathaway stated he would like to have the strictest rules possible and allow our police to enforce. Councilman Laureys spoke with Mr. Blakeslee on this subject on allowing the police to enforce. The Council was in agreement. There was further discussion regarding the details of the different ordinances from other towns. Councilman Hathaway noted that our attorney had suggested determining the snow coverage by what is on the parking lot at the borough hall. There was discussion among the Council on these details. The Mayor suggested we have the attorney produce an ordinance based on the Mine Hill sample and send it to the Council for review. The Council agreed. The borough attorney asked for details on the Main St. concern. The Council suggested it be for Main St. and Maple Ave. to Hilts Lane since there are businesses on both of these streets. Discussion continued regarding this subject among the Council. Councilman Albensi thanked the Council for considering this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ricky Proctor – Street Condition Report

This was discussed earlier in the meeting after public portion of the meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Laureys had a discussion with Councilman Still on the St. Michael's issue. Councilman Laureys would like to survey the town. Councilman Still suggested we send a newsletter to all residents on this possible redevelopment. There was discussion on the cost of a mailing. Councilman Still stated we should be sending newsletters for large projects. There was discussion among the Council on how to accomplish this with as little expense as possible. Councilman Laureys suggested a town employee could produce a newsletter. There was further discussion among the Council on this. Councilman Hathaway stated Randolph sends a quarterly newsletter and he noted what should be in this newsletter. Councilman Laureys stated this should be a newsletter only sent when large events are taking place. There was lengthy discussion on the subject of sending mailings. The idea of a quarterly newsletter is agreeable to the Council. Councilman Laureys stated after this newsletter has been sent, he would like to have an additional survey. Councilman Hathaway stated we should not have to track residents down; residents should come to the meetings on their own fruition. There was further discussion on this topic. Mr. Blakeslee asked who determines what a big subject is: "a no parking sign in front of one's house." Discussion among the Council continued

Councilman Hathaway reported good news: the lake board has been working to secure a grant for new weed harvesting equipment. With help from Mr. Bucco and the lake board president they are being awarded a \$500,000.00 grant to replace the equipment.

Councilman Still made a Motion to purchase new chairs for the dais not to exceed \$500.00 each. Councilman Hathaway seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2022-121-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Purchasing Cards and Amending the Personnel Policy for the Borough of Netcong to Include Purchasing Card and Electronic Funds Transfer Policies.
2. **Resolution 2022-122-** Authorizing a Refund of Interest on Taxes – Timothy and Karen Pruden.
3. **Resolution 2022-123-** To Authorize the Application for a Grant to Replace Playground Equipment at DiRenzo Park.
4. **Resolution 2022-124-** To Transfer Items of Appropriation in the 2022 Current Fund Budget in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:4-58

Resolutions Voted By Block:

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PROCLAMATIONS

None presented.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

None presented.

REPORTS

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

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 Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

A Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman and seconded by Councilman .

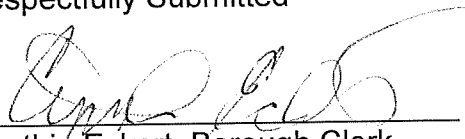
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:48PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk