

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 8, 2023 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 6, 2023.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper
of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2023 and emailing a
copy to the Star Ledger on January 6, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Morton, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk

PROCLAMATION

Betty Curnow: 100 Years Old

The Mayor and Mr. Bucco spoke.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF BETTY CURNOW

WHEREAS, Longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity and experiences this individual brings to all; and

WHEREAS, It is right and proper that the Borough of Netcong recognizes with respect and admiration the many contributions to our community made by our senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Betty Curnow was the youngest of six children born to Clarence and Mary Eva McConnell O'Brien and has lived in Netcong her entire life; and

WHEREAS, She and her husband William Curnow of Mine Hill met ice skating on Lake Musconetcong and were married at the Stanhope Methodist Church. They raised their two sons Gary and Don in the house Betty lives in today; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Betty held various positions at the Stanhope United Methodist Church, her longest contribution was to the United Methodist Women where she served as treasurer; and

WHEREAS, she was also a member of the Eastern Star Musconetcong Lodge and the Musconetcong Foundry Historical Society.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor of the Borough of Netcong and on behalf of the Netcong Council and the citizens of Netcong Borough, honor Betty Curnow for her long life and prosperity, and wish her many more.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a proclamation presented by Mayor Nametko on June 8, 2023.

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes** – May 4, 2023

Minutes – May 11, 2023

Councilman Hathaway requested the minutes of the 4th be updated to reflect his wording on the facilities report. He gave several comments on his reason for changing the wording.

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi to approve the minutes with the changes discussed.

Roll Call: Yes 6

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. James Arbolino, 23 Allen St., complained for a year and a half about a building that is in disrepair. He stated nothing has been done. They are the Council in charge. Why has nothing changed? So much work has been done to improve the downtown. Now we have a building that is worse than any other town (he named several). He stated the owner stated he can't find a painter. Mr. Arbolino stated that is ridiculous. He wants to know why the Council has not done something about it. He provided suggestions on how to get this building improved. He continued stating the downtown should be the first place to make improvements. He has been here 84 years and has not seen something like this where a resident has been ignored. He wants to see something done.

Councilman Sylvester asked which building he was talking about. The response was the old fire house. The mayor stated he had to disagree on this. After he filed the complaint last year, a list was made and many issues were addressed. Mr. Arbolino stated he was on the Council for years. Councilman Still stated this will be taken care of immediately. Councilman Sylvester stated we developed this ordinance to take care of these issues. Mr. Arbolino thanked the Council for their time. Mr. Blakeslee will deliver the message personally tomorrow. The mayor suggested we ask to have curtains put in the windows to hide the clutter. Councilman Still suggested red tagging the whole building.

Councilman Sylvester stated he did fix the issues on the inside of the building. He is not sure if the building can be red tagged at this time. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue. Mr. Blakeslee made several comments on this subject as well.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Valerie Dolan – Borough Auditor to Address the Council

Mrs. Dolan came forward to provide details on the budget. She stated each year gets more difficult and she explained why. Due to inflation everything costs more. We also had a state review this year. They have given their approval on the Netcong 2023 budget. She

states this budget is done to set the future budgets in good standing. The mayor gave several comments on the budget issues for this year. The mayor stated our senator should go back to the senate with these issues that affect local governments. Mrs. Dolan gave further comments on the cap concerns and issues. Councilman Still stated a fine job done by our auditor the Council appreciates their hard work.

1. Ordinance 2023-6 - Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2023-6- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2023-6 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 BUDGET

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

1. Resolution 2023-54 To Read the 2023 Budget by Title Only.

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Resolution 2023-55- To Adopt the 2023 Budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ANNUAL AUDIT

Valerie Dolan – To Address Mayor And Council

Mrs. Dolan provided several statements regarding the audit. She said it is always a pleasure to do the borough audit. She detailed several parts of the audit. She included discussion regarding the sewer and water budgets and the Borough debts. The green acres loan has been paid off. The only comment in this audit is the lack of segregation of duties. However, the town is smaller than many in NJ and everyone does their job.

1. **Resolution #2023-56** -Certification of the Annual Audit.

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Resolution #2023-57** -To Approve the 2022 Corrective Action Plan.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2023-7**- Fixing the Salaries of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Netcong

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2023-7- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2023-7 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2023-9**- Establishing a New Chapter 80 to be Entitled "Solid Waste and Recycling Utility" and Amending Chapter 243 "Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse" of the Code of the Borough of Netcong

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2023-9- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2023-9 was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Resignation letter from Linda Medina

Ms. Medina has been a part time Administrative Asst. Mr. Blakeslee provided an explanation of this resignation. He read the letter to the Council. He stated we have already put an ad on the website to replace her.

A Motion was made to accept the resignation with regrets was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

There was a brief discussion regarding the issues with Koclas Drive. Mr. Canfield stated the borough engineer will be getting these issues corrected.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT

MAY 2023

INSPECTIONS

39 WILTOP RD (2 UNITS)
39 DELL AVE (2 UNITS)
76-78 MAIN ST
55 ALLEN ST
18 BARONE (4 UNITS)
23 BARONE (2 UNITS)
57 ALLEN ST
31 LEDGEWOOD AVE
37 COLLEGE RD – UNIT #4
32 MAPLE AVE – UNIT B
3 OLD BUDD LAKE RD
34 MAPLE AVE
5 HIGHLAND - (2 UNITS)
19 COLLEGE RD (2 UNITS)
37 ALLEN ST
39 ALLEN ST

41 ALLEN ST
43 ALLEN ST
14B MAIN ST
3 OLD BUDD LAKE RD – REINSPECT
52 ALLEN ST (2 UNITS)
17 NORTH ST
102 ALLEN ST – UNIT A
37 COLLEGE RD – UNIT 2 & 3
34 MAPLE ST
32 MAPLE ST
14B MAIN ST
39 MAIN ST
25 KOCLAS DR
1A KINGS RD
3 HERRICK RD – 2 UNITS
36B ALLEN ST
140 MAIN ST
21 STOLL ST – REINSPECT
36 ALLEN – RE-INSPECT
21 CENTER ST – RE-INSPECT
4 MAIN ST - #1 AND 3
36 ALLEN ST – 1ST FLOOR
43 RAILROAD AVE
45 RAILROAD AVE
21 STOLL ST
23 STOLL ST
36A ALLEN ST
31 ALLEN ST – 2 UNIT 21 CENTER ST
14 BARONE ST
8 BURTT ST
4 MAIN ST – 2 UNITS

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ISSUES

1 KINGS RD – HIGH GRASS
94 MAIN ST – HIGH GRASS
5 HILLSIDE – HIGH GRASS
52 ALLEN ST – HIGH GRASS
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ISSUES - CONTINUED
24 AMENDOLA DR – DECK/NO PERMIT
6 CHESTNUT – SHED/NO PERMITS
31 LEDGEWOOD – HIGH GRASS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

For the month of May 2023, the Borough had a total income of \$2,155,428.80 as compared to \$2,110,799.08 in May 2022.

For the month of May 2023:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2023 the Borough received \$2,332.50 compared to \$2,911.00 in 2022.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$40,780.43 in 2023 compared to \$34,721.35 in 2022.

State Aid:

The Borough did not receive state aid in 2023 as well as nothing in 2022.

Grants in Aid:

There was \$145,949.80 received in 2023 for Grants in Aid and \$62,037.94 in 2022.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,966,366.07 in 2023 compared to \$2,011,128.79 in 2022.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2023 is \$5,796,616.27 as opposed to \$5,364,085.04 in 2022.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway stated that Netcong cannot move forward this evening on the area of rehabilitation. We need a resolution from the Planning Board first. This topic will be moved to next month's agenda.

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

Police

There were many large truck summonses issued. Police have received new equipment for active shooter situations.

Radar total incidents: 94

Traffic Enforce/Stop: 188

Building/Property check: 98

Administration: 99

Total Calls for Service: 831

Netcong Fire Prevention

Total Inspections: 25

Total Violations: 56

Total Permits: 6

Admin: 3

Bureau Monthly Hours: 34 Hours

Additional Monthly Notes: Completed a joint safety inspection at a residential, two family home with the Zoning Officer. Assisted the Fire Department with two follow ups. completed all required liquor license inspections.

Netcong Fire Department

Total Calls: 8

Drills: 6

Administrative Details: 14

Total Members: 57

Total time Volunteered: 662 hours & 23 minutes

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Road Department: Picked up 24 cy grass, 48 cy brush, and 8 cy of leaves.... Installed pedestrian traffic signs on Bank St and Flanders Rd....Performed weekly prep and breakdown for Farmers Market....New DPW mason dump truck was delivered and is scheduled for lettering....Repairs were made to broken sidewalk areas on Prospect St....

Water Department: Inspected water and sewer disconnect at the old drive thru on Bank St....Performed May meter readings....

Buildings & Grounds: Cleaned weeds out of decorative trees on Main St and Maple and added new stone....Installed new stop sign at Borough Hall....Cut grass at all Borough properties....A.S. Barlin was in to perform annual sprinkler inspection at Borough Hall....New HVAC company was in to service all AC units for the Borough.....Put up American flags and prepped for Memorial Day Parade....

Other: Hillside Ave began installing a new water main and all service connections should be done by the end of June...Koclas Dr drainage and paving project has been completed....

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

Councilman Morton reported that they are working on Family Fun Day, which will be in September and are looking for sponsors and vendors. They will be hosting a corn hole tournament at family fun day. Mother's Day tea was a great success – it was sold out. The casino trip broke even. The mayor stated the American Legion has a corn hole group.

The mayor will give Councilman Morton their contact information. There was a discussion among the Council on this subject.

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

Days of Service: 20
Miles: 848
Number of Stops: 55
Nutrition for 1 person: 11
Food Shopping: 34
Number of Meals on Wheels: 15 people
Medical Appointments: 34
Other appointments: 16
People Using Services: 37
Cancels: 8
Denials: 0
Units: 172
Hours: 79.25

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: It was nice to see people out watching the Memorial Day Parade.

Councilman Albensi opened with "this is early," but he wants to get the winter parking ordinance on the table. Mr. Bucco had prepared an ordinance for this. Councilman Albensi would like to get this done early so the message can be passed on to residents. There was discussion among the Council on this subject. Mr. Bucco stated he had done this ordinance on January 4th and sent it to Mr. Blakeslee. Mr. Bucco read his email message from January. There was further discussion on this issue.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to thank the DPW for all the preparations for the Memorial Day Parade.

He also wanted to let everyone know the harvester is in the lake and running. Also, there have been chemical treatments done. The weed harvester is still the original one. The new one is being built now. He explained where they have been using the harvester thus far and will be using going forward.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comment at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2023- 58**-Authorizing the Acceptance and Execution of an Agreement Between the Borough of Netcong and the Netcong Borough Fraternal Order of Police.

2. **Resolution 2023-59**- Rejecting All Bids Received for Rehabilitation of Well 1A and Authorizing the Borough Administrator to Re-Advertise for Bids for Said Project

3. **Resolution 2023-60**- To Renew Liquor Licenses for 2023-2024

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. **Resolution 2023-61** - To Renew A'Net's Pub Liquor License for 2023-2024

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. **Resolution 2023-62** - To Renew Quick Chek Liquor License for 2023-2024

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Resolution 2023-63**- Establishing a Policy for Retroactive Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

7. Resolution 2023-64– Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Hillside Ave. Road Improvement Project

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

8. Resolution 2023-65– Salary Resolution

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

9. Resolution 2023-66- Authorizing the Abatement of Property Maintenance Ordinance Violations by the Borough

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Councilman Laureys had a question on which properties are on the list for Resolution 2023-66. Mr. Blakeslee provided an explanation on the properties in question. There was additional discussion among the Council on this issue.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Bond Ordinance 2023-10- BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,175,200 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE VARIOUS GRANTS, 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 Bond Ordinance #2023-10- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2023-10 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Bond Ordinance 2023-11-** BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,038,755 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A FEDERAL GRANT, 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 Bond Ordinance #2023-11- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2023-11 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Bond Ordinance 2023-12-** BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF TELEVISION INSPECTION OF VARIOUS SANITARY SEWER LINES IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$145,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, 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 Bond Ordinance #2023-12- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2023-12 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

No closed session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:33PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully submitted:


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk