

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2023**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD AUGUST 3, 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

STEPHEN FREDERICKS – NCP PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Proposed Ordinance to Add Apartment Complexes to the SID

Mr. Steven Fredericks, Growing Stage Theater President and President of NCP, came forward and introduced himself. He gave a brief explanation of the reason for the proposed change. The NCP would like to include the new apartment complexes in the SID listing. He provided reasons for this proposal. The increase in ratables would better serve the borough downtown. He discussed the slight increase proposed. They are looking for the appreciation of the Council on this matter. The mayor stated the downtown is looking good and thanked them for all the improvements they have provided for downtown, including the flowers and banners on Main St. Mr. Fredericks noted several other programs they have promoted to bring more foot traffic to the downtown. He stated

the additional funds would continue to serve our businesses. Councilman Laureys asked how much business was brought into the Farmer's Market through the flyers that were sent out. Mr. Fredericks spoke about the voucher program that is distributed at the Farmers Market to be used in the local businesses. He continued to explain how this program has helped the business. Councilman Laureys asked the cost of the flyers that were mailed. Councilman Laureys wanted to know how many outside customers came to the market. Councilman Hathaway stated there are metrics that can answer that question. Councilman Laureys was concerned that the businesses are not getting their investment back on the cost of the mailing outreach to other towns. Councilman Hathaway stated money is being spent on other things besides flyer mailings to other towns. Mr. Fredericks will give the numbers to Councilman Laureys. There was heated discussion among the Council on this issue.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Ms. Mary Davenport of 107 Wiltop Rd. had a question about our master plan. She has not seen apartment complexes listed in it. She gave a brief description of what she read. She wants to know why there is no activity at the Crown Walk project. The mayor stated a stop work order has been issued because of some issues with the building. She also wants to know what is happening with the St. Michaels property. Councilman Sylvester detailed the issue at St. Michaels. Ms. Davenport's concern is the large complexes that are being built will bring too many people into town. She is concerned there is no transportation for these residents. Councilman Sylvester stated this area is zoned for 32 single family homes. He also stated the zoning would need to be changed to accommodate it. Ms. Davenport noted that the Crown Walk development is not done properly. Mr. Blakeslee stepped in to explain the process. He went on to explain the property was determined to be an area in need of redevelopment. He continued by explaining the process and steps to deem this area in need of redevelopment. He also discussed the master plan and that it is a general overall view of development. She asked why there is a master plan if it is not followed. She is concerned about congestion, parking etc. when it comes to these large complexes. Mr. Blakeslee continued to explain the process, after the area has been deemed an area in need of redevelopment. The mayor noted that her 5 minutes was up and the meeting needs to move on. Mr. Blakeslee stated she can come to the office for further discussion

Mr. Luis Jimenez, 25 Amendola Dr., stated that there is a swamp behind his property. He wants to know who takes care of the drain back there. He wanted to know if it was Netcong or Roxbury. The mayor explained this property is called the Rt. 80 vista. Mr. Jiminez is concerned about flooding on his property. Councilman Hathaway asked if there was a drain there. Mr. Jiminez stated there is a drain there. He stated there are branches in the drain. The mayor stated the borough will have the DPW supervisor check on this situation. Mr. Jimenez thanked the Council for their time.

Mr. Wayne Anthony of 24 Dell Ave., would like to give kudos to the rec committee for our first Fist Night out. It was a great time and well attended. He stated our DPW does a great job on the flowers and parks.

Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd., is here about the trash. Councilman Hathaway stepped in to explain the details for the decision that was made. He provided information on how leaving this in the regular budget would have caused loss for other departments in the budget. By removing it out of the budget, the utility budget will be funded by the trash utility. There was further discussion on this issue. Councilman Hathaway provided other reasons for establishing this utility. The mayor gave details on the 2% cap and how we have to live by that 2%. Councilman Laureys provided several comments to further illustrate this situation.

Ms. Karen Lapsley of 42 Ledgewood Ave. wanted to know why there is a one size fits all for the garbage can and why is there no consideration for the seniors in our town. Councilman Still stated there are different size cans. Ms. Lapsley wanted to know if the cost for the utility will be different for smaller home sizes. Mr. Blakeslee stated after the first full year is complete, there will be reconsideration on the cost of the utility. He gave details on the tipping fees when we had the trash service. We will now be paying our own tipping fees. There will be consideration for those who have smaller cans and homes to adjust the cost of the utility for them. She said there is software out there that can project the use and costs for this utility. Mr. Blakeslee stated that in the water/sewer system there are minimum charges for all homes. There was further discussion about this subject. She is concerned about a comment the mayor made on Facebook about a mariachi band that canceled because of heat. She is insulted that no one has apologized for this comment.

Mr. Noah Roedel, 5 North St. lives next to a building that has 4 units. He wants to know if the new charge will be per household or per unit. He wants to know when they will be paving Rt. 46. When it rains the water ends up in his basement. Mr. Blakeslee explained the state has not been helpful with this issue in the past or present. Mr. Blakeslee will follow-up with DOT on this. He explained the storm drain gets blocked with debris. Councilman Hathaway stated this is the first the Council has heard about drainage issues in this area of town. Someone will come to look at it.

Ms. Rachel Olaya, 103 Wiltop, is here about the garbage. She wanted to know how the garbage company would know who paid and who did not. Mr. Blakeslee explained this will be subject to tax sale. She wants to know why there will still be a need for stickers for large items. The mayor explained this is a way to gauge/control large item disposal. Councilman Hathaway stated this sticker service is to provide fairness to all residents. She also wanted to know why there can't be 2 times per week garbage pick-up. The mayor stated because the cost would go up. Councilman Hathaway stated if residents want 2 times a week pick-up, with the utility, they could have it but the cost would increase. She had questions about the bidding. She wanted to know if we requested bidders. Mr. Blakeslee stated there are rules about contacting potential bidders which are highly regulated by the state. It is technically illegal for us to contact bidders.

Ms. Jessica Parks, 26 Hilts Lane, wants to know if she can purchase an additional garbage can. She wants to know if there was work done by the railroad because they are having terrible flooding during every storm. Councilman Hathaway stated we should

check the drain pipe there before we call transit on this issue. He provided details on previous issues in that area.

Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd., wants to know if the recycle center is open to other towns residents. He sees businesses and out of state plates dumping recyclables. Mr. Blakeslee stated we get grants based on our tonnage. Mr. Blakeslee explained the businesses are entitled to have their recycles picked up. He wants to know why we can't charge out-of-town people to dump in our recycling center.

Ms. Christina Motyka, Amendola Dr., is concerned that businesses are not paying for their recycling pick-up. She wants to know what will happen if garbage pails get stolen or broken. Mr. Blakeslee explained garbage cans will be replaced. She noted that she had an issue with the colors of the cans. She also wants to know when Amendola Dr. will be paved. Councilman Albensi stated it is on the list for next year. The mayor explained the borough gets a state grant each year for paving and Amendola is on the docket. Her last question: in November there was discussion on winter parking rules. She wants to know if this can be changed. Councilman Albensi stated this is being discussed. It is hopeful this will be changed for the upcoming winter.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Laureys.
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 August 11, 2022.

1. **Minutes** – July 6 2023

2. **Minutes** – July 13, 2023

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the July minutes.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Ordinance Adoptions** - None presented.

4. **Correspondence** – Resignation Email – Pat Duckles – Board of Health Member

A Motion to accept the resignation was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. **Correspondence** – Resignation – Austin Polpelka – DPW Laborer

A Motion to accept the resignation was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Old Business** -None was presented.
7. **New Business** – Various Tax Appeal Settlements
8. **New Business** – Social Affair Permit - Party at the Palace

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

9. **New Business** – Social Affair Permit - Family Fun Day -September 3, 2023

A Motion was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve this permit.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

10. **Resolution 2023-73** – Authorizing a Public Display of Fireworks in the Borough of Netcong by the Assumption Society

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

11. **Resolution 2023-74** – Authorizing an Extension of a Contract to Fairmount Repair & Services, LLC for Assistance with Snow Plowing and Salting Services

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

12. **Resolution 2023-75-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Samuel Stothoff Company to Develop Well 1A in the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

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

13. **Resolution 2023-76-** Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of Vinyl Flooring for the Municipal Building Through NJ Start Contract #23-FOOD-47763 (T-G2005)

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

14. Resolution 2023-77- Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020-June2025

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

15. Resolution 2023-78- Authorizing the Person-To-Person Transfer of Liquor License No. 1428-44-008-004 from Quick Chek Corporation to Motion Liquors, LLC.

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

16. Resolution 2023-79- Authorizing Family Fun Day/Food Truck Festival at Arbolino Park in the Borough of Netcong

The mayor stated he had several calls on the lateness of the fireworks. Councilman Hathaway said the show ended on time. The late fireworks were being set off by residents not the official fireworks company.

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

17. Ordinance Introduction – None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President was hoping that everyone understands the garbage situation.

Councilman Sylvester had a question about the transfer of the liquor license. He wants to know if we have contacted Quick Chek about what will be happening with this building. Mr. Blakeslee stated he has contacted them several times with no response. Councilman Still asked if Mr. Dellamo knew anything about this issue. He provided several comments on this issue.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to echo Mr. Anthony's comments on National Night Out. He said it was well attended by the residents of Netcong. He is hoping we can further this in the future. Mr. Blakeslee stated much of it was funded by the Municipal Alliance.

Councilman Hathaway also wished to talk about discussion on the trail grant. He provided details on the area to be developed through the trail grant (Pickerel Point). He has issues on the absence of enforcement of residents using the state property for personal use. Some people are putting up no trespassing signs and fences on state property. He feels this will cause an issue when it comes to the boardwalk funded by a trail grant. He gave details on this issue. Councilman Sylvester stated we need to start a conversation on this subject. Councilman Hathaway stated most residents were in favor of this trail project. The mayor wanted to know why we can't just remove these signs. Councilman Hathaway stated these signs are in the right of way owned by the borough. Councilman Sylvester wanted to know if we have discussed this with the residents. He feels we should start with that first. Mr. Blakeslee provided information on what has been done in the past about this. Councilman Sylvester stated we need to send letters to these residents that are not in compliance with this state-owned land. He feels we should send thank you letters for those who take care of these properties and letters of non-compliance to those who are taking this land as their own.

Councilman Laureys stated that Mrs. Lapsley's idea could be a good way to go in the future for the garbage pick-up. He wanted to know if changing a can size would be possible. Mr. Blakeslee stated 2024 will be the year to shake out all the issues that may occur. Councilman Sylvester stated this is a work in process. The mayor commented on the issue of charging based on size. Councilman Laureys also wanted the Council to be careful how they talk to people and that they can stay on topic.

Councilman Albensi wanted to thank all the first responders for participating in the National Night Out. The mayor stated he had a family event that evening and was sorry he could not attend.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The mayor was compelled to explain his point for his Facebook comment. He was supporting Hispanic people, not criticizing them. Councilman Morton understood his position, but he felt this comment should not have been put on Facebook. There was discussion between Councilman Morton and the Mayor on this subject.

PROCLAMATION

None presented

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Luis Jiminez Just wished to comment that "you can't please everyone."
Mr. Noah Roedel of 5 North St., wanted to know if there is a timeline for Polo's to expand their parking lot. Mr. Blakeslee responded.

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 9:09PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk