

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2023**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD AUGUST 10, 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 Administrator 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

At this time, Mayor Nametko wanted to provide his Mayor Comments, He addressed the Facebook comment issue discussed at the last meeting. He stated that the Council President was correct; he should not be posting comments on Facebook because they can be misunderstood. He wished the person who made the comments last week was at the meeting. The mayor noted his contributions to the Hispanic people in Netcong.

He also mentioned that his wife was half Hispanic and would have not been happy in the least if he did say something inappropriate.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mrs. Bernadette Dalessandro, 32 Baronne Street, noted that she did not attend the last meeting and had some additional questions regarding the garbage tax discussions. The mayor responded explaining the rules and regulations of this now separate utility. She also asked about the taxing procedures for veterans.

Ms. Jeanette Mostowicz, 41 Koclas Drive, did not know any other Mayor who is so giving to all the people in this town. She wished the person who made the comment was here also as she would tell her about our mayor and that he is a pleasure to work with. She also noted that he is the best supporter of the Spanish community.

Jessica Parks – 27 Hilts Lane - mentioned that the Food Truck festival is in September. She noted that certain organizations were going to be doing a dunk tank. She was seeking a volunteer to be in the tank.

Ms. Michelle Ruocco, 39 Main Street, asked about the commercial properties that have a dumpster. Mr. Blakeslee noted that those commercial businesses that paid for their own dumpster would not be charged. She also had a question about the stickers, large items and spring cleaning. Mr. Blakeslee and the Mayor responded. Councilman Laureys offered a suggestion for the large items.

Mr. Mathew Eddy, 25 Flanders Road, asked if he could plant bushes in the recycle area, just to spruce it up. The mayor stated he could speak with Mike Canfield. Mr. Eddy also had a question about the old tool factory. 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

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

None presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee highlighted some aspects about the use of DiRenzo Park. He had a meeting with the superintendent regarding the shoreline of Koclas Dr. He wanted to make sure that everyone had registered on the new payroll system. He commented on the personnel policy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

For the month of July 2023, the Borough had a total income of \$1,629,943.35 as compared to \$666,703.77 in July 2022.

For the month of July 2023:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2023 the Borough received \$4,459.00 compared to \$4,876.50 in 2022.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$31,443.47 in 2023 compared to \$13,488.38 in 2022.

State Aid:

The Borough received \$9,477.00 in state aid in 2023 and \$178,335.62 in 2022.

Grants in Aid:

There were no Grants in Aid for 2023 or 2022.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,584,563.88 in 2023 compared to \$470,003.27 in 2022.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2023 is \$7,510,804.75 as opposed to \$6,202,612.17 in 2022.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway verified that everyone had received the redevelopment study. The St. Michaels project was reviewed yesterday. They covered the Cannabis zoning with the Planner. Mr. Blakeslee and Councilman Hathaway continued discussion on these topics. There was additional discussion within the Council about the licensing

and zoning of these items. He believes they have developed a model that will be successful.

**Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)**

J. Sylvester

T. Laureys

Netcong Fire Department for the month of July 2023:

Total Calls: 19
General Alarms: 12
Squad Assists: 0
Mutual Aid: 7
Total Members: 24
Time Volunteered: 67 Hours & 56 Minutes
Drills: 8
Total Members: 31
Time Volunteered: 170 Hours
Administrative Details: 12
Total Members: 35
Time Volunteered: 179 Hours & 23 Minute
TOTAL MEMBERS: 39
Total Time Volunteered: 417 Hours & 19 Minutes

Netcong Fire Prevention

Total Inspections: 36
Violations: 42
Safety Permits Issued: 4
Follow up w/Fire Department: 2

Netcong Police Department

Total Calls: 829
Domestics took much of the time this month and are labor intensive.
Motor Vehicle Summons Issued: 97, out of 165 traffic stops

**Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:**

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Road Department: filled water pots twice....Cleared fallen tree at the fire lane at the Park and Ride....Cleaned up debris from multiple flood events....Repaired a water repair patch on Maple Ave....Repaired a collapsed basin on Togno St....Repaired a damaged gutter at #2 Firehouse...

Buildings & Grounds: Cut Boro properties weekly and performed maintenance on all landscaping equipment....

Parks and Recreation: repaired broken split rail fence at Arbolino Park.....Removed a dead tree from the Park and Ride....Repaired a broken flag rope at Arbolino Park....

Other: Helped in preparation for the St Cesario fireworks with cones, barricades, light towers and message boards....

Well pumped 3,027,400 gallons more than last year.

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

The recreation department is working hard on the summer food truck festival. The music fest is on September 3. Chairman Morton wanted to thank everyone who helped with the Netcong 1st Annual Night Out.

**Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal**

T. Laureys

T. Morton

Dial a Ride report

19 days of service

839 Miles

80 Stops

Nutrition for 1 person: 12

21 for Food Shopping

15 Meals on Wheels

49 Medical Appointments

27 Other Appointments

37 People total, using services

7 Cancellations

0 Denials of Service

158 Units

75.25 Hours

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Sylvester discussed a patch of land that is owned by the Borough. He noted that Mr. Peterson is taking down a tree for us. He wanted to know if we approached the neighbors about this.

PROCLAMATIONS

None

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2023-80-** Authorizing Settlement of Various Netcong Borough Tax Appeal Litigation Matters

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Resolution 2023-81 -** Police Chief and Lt. Compensation

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2023-13 -** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 75, SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCLUDING CLASS 4C AND 15F, PILOT, MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS, WITHIN THE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-13 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Councilman Laureys considered the SID as the Netcong Socialism Program for Businesses. He doesn't think it should exist and doesn't agree with this and will vote "no."

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-13 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

REPORTS

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

Mrs. Bernadette Dalesandro, asked if there was discussion about the St. Michaels project becoming the pilot program. The Council responded, yes, it is being considered. She was concerned about the unequal taxation of this. The mayor explained the reasoning for this discussion in the project meetings. Mrs. Dalessandro was concerned that there was no written record of these meeting discussions. She wanted to know how she would OPRA this? Mr. Bucco explained that OPRA does not affect meetings that are without a quorum and therefore there is no voting. He added there are reports from all the committee meetings that have a quorum. She also asked a question about the project discussed in the ordinance that was introduced this evening. Mr. Bucco provided answers.

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

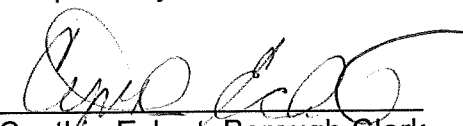
CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:17PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk