

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
September 14, 2023**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 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 (via conference call) 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

Seeing no one coming forward, a Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

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

Councilman Laureys offered that he was going to vote "no" and would provide his reasoning after the vote.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2023-13- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2023-13 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Councilman Sylvester had a question about retail cannabis. Councilman Hathaway explained that it is the same as the liquor license statute, 3000 not 6000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still made his report a part of the record.

For the month of August 2023, the Borough had a total income of \$1,253,906.27 as compared to \$2,390,920.94 in August 2023.

For the month of August 2023:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2023 the Borough received \$3,343.85 compared to \$4,603.00 in 2022.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$33,504.15 in 2023 compared to \$22,733.15 in 2022.

State Aid:

The Borough received \$196,449.98 in state aid in 2023 and \$185,779.67 in 2022.

Grants in Aid:

There were no Grants in Aid awarded in 2023 and \$2,424.73 awarded in 2022.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,020,608.29 in 2023 compared to \$2,175,380.39 in 2022.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2023 is \$8,764,711.02 as opposed to \$8,593,533.11 in 2022.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway stated that there was nothing new since the last meeting.

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

Councilman Sylvester filed his reports

Netcong Fire Department for the month of August 2023:

Total Calls: 8

General Alarms: 6

Squad Assists: 0

Mutual Aid: 2

Total Members: 21

Time Volunteered: 64 Hours & 2 Minutes

Drills: 2

Total Members: 11

Time Volunteered: 42 Hours

Administrative Details: 3

Total Members: 19

Time Volunteered: 148 Hours

Total Members: 29

Total Time Volunteered: 254 Hours & 2 Minutes

Netcong Fire Prevention August

Total Inspections: 13

Total Violations: 14

Fire Safety Permits Issued: 4

Total Admin: 2

Total Hours: 40

Additional Notes: Inspected the fireworks display for the Feast of the Assumption. Public Education session at the NCP Farmer's Market. Retired 2014 PD Chevrolet Tahoe, put in service as the Bureau's vehicle. Processed permits for the Recreation Food Truck Festival.

Ambulance Corp June report

Calls Answered: 42

Patients: 22

Hospital trips: 18

Miles Traveled: 508

Hours Volunteered: 271 hours 20 minutes

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi filed his report.

D.P.W. Monthly Report September 2023

Road Department: performed weed spray treatment on Main St and Maple Ave....Cleared backed up storm drain behind 25 Amendola Dr....Picked up 24 cy of grass and 16 cy of brush....Cut back low hanging branches in preparation for winter plowing.....

Water Department: Repaired a damaged water box at Alternative Auto....Repaired water leak at 10 Water St....Repaired a water leak at 9 Amendola Dr....Started extensive markout process for gas main installation....

Buildings & Grounds: Filled flower pots with water twice in August...

Parks and Recreation: Cut grass at all Borough Parks and Borough properties....

Other: Picked up and brought back traffic items to the County used for the Assumption Fireworks....Helped support various tasks for food truck festival....

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

Councilman Morton stated there was \$11,350 raised for the playground bringing the total to around \$14,000. He thanked everyone for helping. A Halloween decorating contest will be held the week before Halloween and there will be a trunk or treat at the train station.

Public Services:

T. Laureys

T. Morton

(Human Services

Recycling & Solid

Waste Disposal

Councilman Laureys filed his report.

Dial a Ride August

Days of Service: 21

Miles: 903

Number of Stops: 84

Nutrition for one person: 11

Food Shopping: 46

Number of Meals on Wheels: 15

Other Appointments: 26

People using services: 36

Cancel: 7

Denials: 0

Units: 236

Hours: 88

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Still stated a great job was done by all at the food truck festival including all employees.

Councilman Laureys has two issues he would like to discuss. First, he wanted to address the letter from Mr. Fredericks, president of the NCP. He reviewed the comments in the letter and gave his opinions regarding this. His concern is if the farmers market is bringing business to our businesses in town. Councilman Laureys suggested that a member of the NCP be present at a station in the front of the market to ask guests what town they are from. This would be a way to determine how the mailers are doing.

Councilman Laureys also had comments regarding the NCP and how some members wanted to disband about ten years ago. He feels this forced membership is unfair to businesses. He gave details on his concerns about this organization and his objections to it. Mr. Pisano, a member of the NCP stated from the audience there are no surveys planned at this time. Councilman Laureys is against the ordinance that was just passed to include additional multifamily properties. He did his own survey and noted that the majority of the people he spoke with did not want the NCP. He added that there was some questioning of his survey's validity. He added more reasons why he is against this

organization. There was discussion among the Mayor and Councilman Laureys on his comments regarding the spending of NCP funding.

Councilman Laureys also had an issue with the high-density housing units. He addressed the Council members who have lived here for many years. He stated "Do we want this town to become like Parsippany or do we want to keep Netcong the small town we grew up with". He gave further comments about the statistics about prospective numbers of students that will be added to the school. Councilman Still stated he is beginning to bully members of the Council. The mayor asked how many apartments there are in Netcong Heights. Councilman Laureys started giving statistics. Councilman Hathaway gave his opinion on this situation. The mayor asked Councilman Laureys to finish his statement. Councilman Laureys ended by asking 'what the objection is to putting single-family homes as opposed to high density homes.' Councilman Albensi gave his opinion and stated what he felt were the actual statistics on how many students are going to the school from the high-density units. He stated out of the 550 high density units, there are 18 students in the elementary school. The rest of the 300 children are from single family homes. The mayor stated that the point was made and we need to move forward.

Councilman Sylvester asked if there can be comments on resolutions later. He received feedback from Councilman Hathaway and the Mayor.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Nametko was concerned that Councilman Laureys called some members of the NCP socialists and they took offense to it. Mr. Laureys then stated he did not call them that, but that this is a socialist type program.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2023-84-** A Resolution to Affirm the Borough of Netcong's Civil Rights Policy with Respect to All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, And Members of The Public That Come into Contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Resolution 2023-85-** To Authorize the Cost Share Funds for the FY 2023 EPA Community Grant for Water Service Line Replacements

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Resolution 2023-86-** A Resolution of Support for The Application of Bud to Bloom, LLC To Renew Its Provisional License for A Retail Cannabis Dispensary At 123 Ledgewood Avenue, Netcong New Jersey

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

4. **Resolution 2023-87-** A Resolution of The Netcong Borough Council Redetermining Block 26, Lot 6 And A Portion of Lot 10 As A Non-Condernation Area in Need of Redevelopment in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40a:12a-1 Et Seq.

Councilman Sylvester, he did not know why this was on the agenda again, it must be an omen. He stated we could make room in our school. He stated this project is wrong for Netcong. It should be single families.

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

Roll Call: 4 No: Councilmen Laureys, Morton and Sylvester
Since the vote was a tie, the mayor voted.

PROCLAMATIONS

None

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2023-14-** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13, ET SEQ.

Councilman Sylvested asked a couple of questions to get clarification.

Councilman Laureys asked why there are two different ordinances for the small lots and larger ones. Mr. Blakeslee gave an explanation for this. The attorney provided the reasons for having to list the properties separately.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-14 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-14 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Ordinance 2023-15- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13, ET SEQ.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-15 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-15 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. Ordinance 2023-16- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 194 "LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG.

Councilman Sylvester asked what we are changing. Mr. Blakeslee provided an explanation.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-16 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-16 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

4. Ordinance 2023-17- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 252, "TAXATION," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG TO INCLUDE A NEW ARTICLE CONCERNING CANNABIS SALES TAXATION.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-17 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-17 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

5. Ordinance 2023-18- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 122, "CANNABIS SALES, USE AND LICENSURE," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG FOR THE LICENSURE OF CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS AND REGULATION OF CANNABIS SALES AND USE.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-18 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-18 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

6. Bond Ordinance 2023-19 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS TO JENNY LIND STREET IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$312,500 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE 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 #2023-19- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2023-19 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

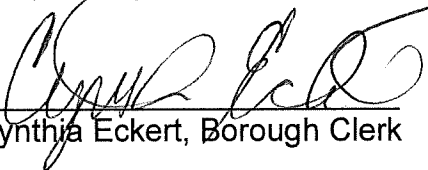
CLOSED SESSION

None this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:21PM. The motion was passed with unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk