

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 6, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 6, 2024 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Still 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 5, 2024.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper  
of the Borough of Netcong on January 10, 2024 and emailing a  
copy to the Star Ledger on January 5, 2024.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mrs. Bernadette Dalesandro, 32 Barone St., would like to know a bit about the resolution on the agenda this evening for the drainage on Barone St. Councilman Hathaway provided a general explanation on this project. She mentioned the street has just been resurfaced. The purpose of this is to correct sump pump drainage issues. It was concluded that paving was done by the gas company.

Mr. Rues Bay, 5 Britton St., wanted to know if Hilts Lane and Britton St. will be paved. The mayor stated the gas company will be paving the road once the gas line is in and settled. He asked if there is a timeline. The Council stated they do not know.

Mr. John Parks, 26 Hilts Lane, stated he spoke with NJNG about the paving and they stated they will have discussion with the borough on the subject of paving Hilts Lane. Councilman Hathaway had insight on this subject. It was determined this could take some time.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 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 June 13, 2024.*

1. **Minutes** – May 2, 2024

**Minutes** – May 9, 2024

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the May minutes.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Ordinance Adoptions** - None presented

3. **Correspondence** – None presented

4. **Old Business** – None presented.

5. **New Business** -Noise Ordinance

Councilman Hathaway stated some residents from Stoll St. and Maple Ave. had complaints about noise. Our ordinance is not specific on what is considered loud. Other towns have decibel level meters to determine what is too loud. Councilman Sylvester and Councilman Hathaway would like to address this situation. We would need a certified person and certified machine to operate and enforce this. There was discussion among the Council on changing the current ordinance. The way the current ordinance is written does not give the police a standard to go by.

Discussion on this topic will continue at the June 13th meeting.

6. **New Business** -INI Study

Councilman Hathaway brought up the subject of unusual increases in the sewage flow rates. He gave the numbers on this issue. We are up 60% in sewage and only a 6% increase in our water usage. He feels there is a leak in the system. Mr. Hess, water operator, was present and provided possible causes for this issue. It could be multiple locations. Groundwater levels have risen. He stated a study needs to be done to find the source of this issue. Councilman Hathaway stated the INI study should be conducted, there is money in the utility to accomplish this.

A Motion to authorize Mr. Blakeslee to conduct the INI study under water operator was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

7. **New Business-** Appointment of Matthew Urquhart Firefighter for Fire Co. No.1

A Motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this appointment.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

8. **New Business-** Approve Social Affair Permit for Saint Cesario Society

A Motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the permit.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

9. **New Business** - Approve Social Affair Permit for Growing Stage Theatre

A Motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this permit.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

10. **New Business-** Approve Social Affair Permit for Assumption Society

A Motion to approve this permit was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

11. **Resolutions** – Resolution 2024-74 – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with NJ Department of Transportation for the Barone Street Road and Drainage Improvement Project.

To be carried to the June 13th meeting.

12. **Ordinance Introduction-** None presented

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilman Hathaway wanted to bring to everyone's attention that there is a significant engineering disconnect at this time. He gave details on some of the issues that have arisen recently:

- Arbolino Park bathrooms fixtures and their associated costs were not included in original grant
- Prospect Street safety issues have not been addressed. Specs and drawings were anticipated. This has been going on for months.
- Allen Terrace unresolved issue. They are awaiting a report.
- Significant issues on Village Place Administration/Enforcement by engineer

- **Direnzo Park Playground:** there were specific instructions to the engineer by the committee on the elevation of the playground which was incorrect but the engineer did not monitor this. Because it was engineered deeper than planned a retaining wall had to be installed. The town paid for 'proper installation.'

Councilman Hathaway continued by adding that Mr. Rushcke said he would be available for our town in an interview, but that has not happened. The first project they were responsible for, a lake project, was entered one day late and therefore the town lost the grant.

These statements fostered further discussion among the Council.

Councilman Hathaway made a motion to go out to RFQ for a new Engineer.

Councilman Nametko seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Councilman Morton asked if there was any movement on the traffic light on Maple and Rt. 183. The mayor stated Mr. Blakeslee was working with the DOT on this. This was part of the safe routes to school study. There was discussion among the Council on this issue. There was also discussion regarding the fire department issues with this potential light.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Still is concerned about the sewer flow. He worked at the MSA for years and has not seen these types of numbers. Councilman Nametko asked about the meter coming off of the Woodmont development. Mr. Hess stated that the meter is steady. There was discussion among the Council on this issue and the potential places that this could be coming from. Mr. Hess will work on finding this issue. Mr. Hess stated he did check the new meter on the new warehouse. Councilman Hathaway stated the warehouse is not connected yet. Mr. Hess will check on this. Councilman Laureys asked how long it will take to get this study done. Mayor Still suggested we go to the MSA for referrals. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue.

### **PROCLAMATION**

None presented.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd, works in a sewer department and has experience with these issues. He had several questions and wanted to know if the town could use equipment from another town. Mr. Hess remarked if this issue is extensive, this would put undue pressure on another town.

Mrs. Terry Vervaet, 46 Allen St., would like to recognize our new assessor; she had a slight issue with her block and lot and the new assessor took care of it immediately.

Mrs. Kim Albensi, 42 College Rd., would like to comment on the engineer situation and the Direnzo Playground. The recreation department has been approached by several angry residents that the playground is not complete. It was also very clear when a walk through was done before construction began that the playground would be flush with the ground and it is not.

Mr. John Parks, 26 Hilts Lane, wished to discuss noise issues he is having with his neighbor. The solution to this is, noise must end at 10:00pm. There was further discussion on this noise issue among the Council.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **CLOSED SESSION**

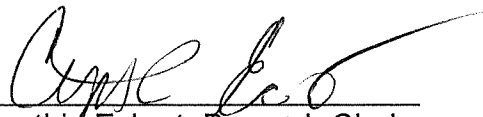
No closed session was held.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton at 8:14PM.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk