

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
June 5, 2025**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 5, 2025 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 21, 2025.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 21, 2025 and emailing a copy to the Star Ledger on January 22, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Thomas Huffman, 26 Dell Ave., stated that this is regarding the water pipe that runs under Water St. He stated 5-6 years later the repairs have not been made. He wants to know why this has not been corrected. There has been damage to houses on Water St. He stated this drain is cleaned out 3 times a year. Only for it to be filled again. He gave statistics on the cost of cleaning out the storm drain as compared to getting this repaired. The mayor stated this is what we do now as this is our only option right now. He emphasized we are working on this. Councilman Hathaway stated the Safe Routes to School Grant was to cover the repairs which showed a change in the location. Mr. Blakeslee stated the Safe Routes to School is a federal grant which has many steps to take before approval. He added that the mayors' comments are accurate and we are

doing what we can while we wait for the grant approval. Mr. Huffman had several comments on another issue. It was stated that the situation was an emergent one that had to be repaired immediately. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue and the reasons for the water issues in that area. Councilman Hathaway stated there have been discussions about the problems in this area with the engineer. He stated there may be some work done on the lakes outlet to correct the back charge difficulty. He provided additional comments on this situation and noted that the borough is trying to find the funding to correct this.

Mr. James Arbolino, 23 Allen St., stated that four years ago in May he came to the Council with a complaint about a building on Main St. that needed painting. He has been back to the Council multiple times with the same complaint. The problems have still not been corrected. He is not happy with this issue. This building is on Main St. and looks terrible.

The mayor stated this property owner is in court now about this issue and pleaded not guilty. There will be a trial in court. Mr. Arbolino stated there is an issue with the JA Spice building as well. No one will come into town if it looks in disrepair. Mr. Blakeslee explained the property owner was issued a summons, went to court and will have a trial. Councilman Nametko stated the flower shop also needs painting. Councilman Sylvester stated we do not take a hard enough line with property maintenance issues. There was further discussion among the Council on the subject of property maintenance especially in the downtown. Councilman Laureys asked if we can do abatement on Main St. properties as are done with residential property maintenance. Mr. Blakeslee suggested the borough attorney should be consulted on this subject. Councilman Hathaway provided suggestions on how other towns handle these types of situations. Councilman Nametko asked if the dustpans and brushes that were bought with grant money were distributed to the business owners. There was further discussion about enforcing the rules. Mr. Blakeslee stated there has been an increase in enforcement. Councilman Hathaway feels we do not pay enough attention to our downtown area. The mayor stated this should be the last time we need to hear from a previous Councilman coming in and complain about property maintenance. He would like a meeting with all enforcement personnel on this subject. The Council would like Mr. Blakeslee to contact the attorney.

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 24 Dell Ave., thanked the Mayor, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Eddy and Tim Hess for helping his neighbor who had flooding last week. He showed the Council pictures of the pipe by the Village Place. He wants to know if it has been inspected by the engineer. Mr. Blakeslee stated we are working on this. The mayor stated the Council is aware of the current flooding in the town and it is being worked on. Councilman Hathaway had comments on the issues on Water St. There was further discussion among the Council on the flooding issues.

Mrs. Michelle Ruocco, 39 Main St., wanted to know how long the borough will be in court with Mr. Downing. Councilman Hathaway stated we have no control over this. She had a question about sidewalks and who is responsible for the care of them. Mr. Blakeslee will show her where the code is for this. She feels there is a communication gap between tenants and landlords for the buildings on Main St. Mr. Blakeslee noted that the landlord

has the ultimate responsibility for their property, not the tenant. He gave several examples of previous problems in this area and how they were resolved.

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

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 June 12, 2025.

1. **Minutes** – May 1, 2025

Minutes – May 8, 2025

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Laureys to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Public Hearing and Adoption of SID Budget**

Public Hearing SID Budget

To be carried to the June 12th Meeting.

Resolution 2025-56- Approving the 2025 Budget for the Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong

To be carried to the June 12th Meeting

3. **Ordinance Adoptions -Ordinance 2025-7-** Amending Chapter 217, "Parks"; Chapter 228, "Rental Property"; and Chapter 169, "Food and Beverage Vendors Licensing", of the Code of the Borough of Netcong

To be carried to the June 12th Meeting

4. **Correspondence** – None presented

5. **Old Business** – None presented

6. **New Business-** None presented

7. **Resolutions** – None presented

8. **Ordinance Introduction-** None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President stated the he will comment next week

Councilman Hathaway will not be here next week. He will give the economic committee report to Councilman Nametko. He asked if the Council had any questions. He stated there was a meeting for the trail grant. He gave brief details on the contents of the meeting. There will be some boardwalk and land portions of the trail. Councilman Nametko asked where the boardwalk would end. Councilman Hathaway stated there will be a sidewalk added to the Koclas Dr. area. The boardwalk will possibly end near the curve on Koclas Dr. This will have to be determined by the engineer. Councilman Nametko stated he heard the county has money available for trails and parks. Mr. Blakeslee stated the trail design application was turned in today.

MAYORS COMMENTS

He wanted everyone to know they are aware of the flooding issues and will be working on them to rectify all problems.

PROCLAMATION

None presented.

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

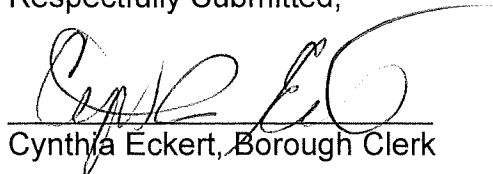
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Eddy at 8:19 PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk