

**Connellsville City Council  
MINUTES  
May 18, 2021**

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:00 PM. Attending this meeting was Mayor Lincoln, Council members Keedy, Karpiak, Tzan (entered 6:06 PM) and Topper. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Pastor Matt Goldsberry led invocation

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Weaver announced Business Registrations are up this year.

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:** Absent

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 5-1-2021:** "To approve the minutes from the April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-2-2021:** "To waive the Four-Day Resolution Rule to allow for items submitted after the Four-Day Rule to be read at the meeting tonight, such Resolutions will be marked with an asterisk."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report

Pastor Matt Goldsberry led prayer in response to Councilman Topper's grandmother passing away.

Mayor Lincoln stated Community Ministries will be having a Volunteer Appreciation Day and requests use of the lot behind the ministries building.

**Resolution No. 5-3-2021:** "To grant permission to Connellsville Area Community Ministries to use the parking lot behind Community Ministries on July 31, 2021 from 1 PM until 5 PM."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-4-2021:** "To approve a "Loading/Unloading Zone" on North Alley next to Riverview Apartments as requested by the Connellsville Housing Authority. Paint, signage and work to be taken care of by the Connellsville Housing Authority."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-5-2021:** "To remove the Mayor and Police Department representative as voting members in the Diversity and Inclusion Board Bylaws."

Mayor Lincoln explained the board had reservations concerning a City employee and himself being voting members and that it wouldn't seem they are a separate board. He noted he will be the Advisory Member for City Council. He concluded two members of the police will be non-voting members.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-6-2021:** "TO APPROVE THE REVISED RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE CREATING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BOARD."

Solicitor Witt stated this resolution is required due to Mayor and Police Members being removed as voting members.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-7-2021:** "To approve the bylaws of the Diversity and Inclusion Board."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-8-2021:** "To appoint Toni Colland to the Diversity and Inclusion Board; term to expire 2022."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln stated the next resolution is due to her having to travel and not being able to attend all meetings. He added Pastor Stafford, who lives in the City and was in attendance and expressed interest in being a voting member.

**Resolution No. 5-10-2021:** “To appoint Pastor James Stafford, Jr. to the Diversity and Inclusion Board, with Term to expire January 1, 2023.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-9-2021:** “To accept the resignation of J’Taya Pirl, from the Diversity and Inclusion Board effective immediately.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln explained the following resolution as the Police Chief being contacted by PennDOT and being told PennDOT has new policies which will make it difficult to have Crawford Avenue shut down. He noted the Chamber had previously requested to use Crawford and know they are requesting Third Street instead.

**Resolution No. 5-11-2021:** “To close South Third Street between West Crawford Avenue and South First Street from 5 AM until 11 PM on Thursday, August 5, 2021 for the Savor the Avenue 2021 Event; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-12-2021:** “To grant the Honor Roll Committee permission to place the Honor Roll on the site of the War Memorial at the intersection of North Pittsburgh Street and Rt. 119.”

Mayor Lincoln stated Mrs. Keller put a lot of time and work and research into making the memorial a reality. He further noted she has gone above and beyond. He also stated she did research on the veterans and who would be listed on the memorial and the cost of the granite. Mayor Lincoln stated the Connellsville Festival Association will be a part of the fundraising for this.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln stated they will table the vacating an alley at Penn Street.

City Clerk Ohler stated the next resolution is Highland’s Hospital upgrading the ER project.

**Resolution No. 5-13-2021:** “To approve the Cooperation Agreement with Highlands Hospital and the Redevelopment Authority of Washington County for RACP Funding; to authorize and direct the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Solicitor to execute such Cooperation Agreement; and to authorize and direct City officials and employees to take such steps as may be necessary to effectuate such Cooperation Agreement.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-14-2021:** To grant permission to the Diversity and Inclusion Board for use of Veterans Plaza on Saturday June 19th, 2021 from 1 pm until 2 pm for the Juneteenth Program and to close North Arch Street from West Crawford Ave to Orchard Alley at this time.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Melinda Powel and Scottsdale Bank for their support in this.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln showed books donated by the PA American and stated he is hopeful the Carnegie Library will accept the books and create a diversity section for the books.

#### **REMINDERS:**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, Fayette Co. Behavioral Health Administration, 724-430-1370

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dog Park Grand Opening. Mayor Lincoln stated he and Councilwoman Tzan will be the MCs for the event, Pastor Matt will lead prayer, there will be a National Anthem, Patrolman Garlick and Officer Ambrose are part of the K9 Group – so there will be at least six K9 units be at the grand opening with their cars and dogs putting on a fun and educational program. He also stated everyone is welcome, especially the kids. He thanked the Public Works employees and noted without them, the City wouldn't have the park because they did all the work. Mayor Lincoln also thanked Vernon Ohler, City Clerk for all his work. He added it will be at 10 AM.

May 31<sup>st</sup>, Memorial Day Parade, 10 AM

Farmers Markets, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mayor Lincoln announced vendors are always welcome and it is \$10 for a spot. He stated they will close off Apple Street to Peach Street. Bill Harden may be at the markets playing guitar.

Chuck Hubble stated this is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for 9/11 and wanted to know if the City is planning an event that day.

Mayor Lincoln replied he wants to discuss that with the City Clerk and Councilman Topper. (Tape cut out).

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Yough River Rally

June 12<sup>th</sup>, YRTC Spring Race, Register 7 AM, Race 8 AM, youghrivertrail.com

June 19<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth, 1 PM at Veteran's Plaza

Mayor Lincoln added on the 19<sup>th</sup> is also the Twenty's Fifth Annual Barstool Open. He added you play Putt-Putt and there are 12 holes this year. He noted it will be at Fox Tavern this year.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wellness on the Yough

Christian Church, 212 S. Pittsburgh Street, Free Community Lunch every Monday beginning 11:30 AM until 1 PM, 724-628-3802 for information.

PE In the Park, East Park, June 14<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 724-433-9608 or PE In The Park Facebook Page for information.

Mayor Lincoln added this is a really good program to keep kids active.

Email events to: [connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com)

#### **KEEDY:**

Councilman Keedy announced June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> is when the City's audit will begin.

Mayor Lincoln announced there will be a one-day Rib Fest on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to accompany the Connellsville Festival Associations Fireworks. He added that is a Saturday and will go from 4 PM until 11 PM. He also added there are four confirmed BBQ Vendors. Mayor Lincoln stated there is one band booked and awaiting a reply from another band. He stated there will be a kid's area on Arch Street with bounce houses and snow cones and Crawford Ax Throwing will be there with their mobile Ax Throwing business. He noted they are still working on details and hope to have a three-day event in 2022. Mayor Lincoln stated they received the funds through Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau.

Mayor Lincoln announced City Clerk Ohler is working on a food truck event in September.

Mayor Lincoln stated Connellsville Township is having a Fun Fest June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 5-15-2021:** "To enter into an Agreement with Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, for reimbursement for paving on Locust Street, Willow Street, Olive Street and Campbell Avenue, for entire streets and or sections as per the City of Connellsville's street opening ordinance."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 5-16-2021:** “To accept the bid of Derry Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$122,440.50 for the 2021 Street Paving Program; pending approval by the City Clerk and City Solicitor.”

Councilman Karpiak stated this next resolution went very well with other municipalities and the Connellsville School District forming together. Councilman Karpiak praised City Clerk Ohler for his work in this project.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**TZAN:**

**Resolution No. 5-17-2021:** “WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolution No. 04-13-2021, adopted April 20, 2021, the City of Connellsville declared its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual adopted December 16, 2008 and amended on March 28, 2016, and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, each individual act of disposition shall be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in accordance with the above cited Municipal Records Manual, hereby authorizes the disposition of the following public records attached hereto”

1993	Accounts Receivable Reports
2007-08	Act 98 Fire Escrow Bank Statements
2007	Animal Control Reports
1990	Budget Printouts
1997-98	Budget Printouts
2002	Budget Printouts
2004-05	Budget Printouts
2000	Capital Improvement Fund Bank Statements
2010-11	Capital Reserve Canceled Checks
2004-06	City Mechanical Device Record
1974-81	City Real Estate Tax Ledger
1984	City Real Estate Tax Ledger
1997-98	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2002-03	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2007-10	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2012	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2014-17	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
1993-96	City Tax Canceled Checks
2004-2007	City Tax Canceled Checks
2004-2007	City Tax Deposit Slips
2008	City Tax Disbursement Account Deposits
1990-91	Daily Cash Receipts
1997	Daily Cash Receipts
2003-04	Daily Cash Receipts
2006-11	Daily Cash Receipts
1979-85	Delinquent County Tax Ledgers
1997-99	DEP Recycling Reports
1989-96	Deposit Books All Accounts
2011	Deposit Books All Accounts
1997	Disbursement Account Bank Statements
1989	Disbursement Account Canceled Checks
1999	Disbursement Reports
2008	Early Intervention Reports
2004	Eat/Drink Licenses
1978-79	Employment Applications
1990-91	Employment Applications
2000-04	Employment Applications
2006-08	Employment Applications
2012	Employment Applications
1993	Expense Printouts
1999	Expense Register
1997	Expense Reports
1978-79	Fire Applications
2001-02	Garbage Bid Bonds
2000	General Fund Bank Statements
2008	General Fund Bank Statements
2001	General Fund Budget Printouts

1987	General Fund Canceled Checks
1990-2001	General Fund Canceled Checks
2003-07	General Fund Canceled Checks
2009-13	General Fund Canceled Checks
2006	General Fund Check Register
2012	General Fund Check Register
2003-07	General Fund Deposits
2010-12	General Fund Deposits
2001-10	Insurance Liability Bonds
1990-91	Library Fund Canceled Checks
1993-96	Library Fund Canceled Checks
2003-07	Library Fund Deposits
2000-01	Liquid Fuels Fund Canceled Checks
2003	Liquid Fuels Fund Canceled Checks
2005	Liquid Fuels Fund Canceled Checks
2007	Liquid Fuels Fund Canceled Checks
2009-2011	Liquid Fuels Fund Canceled Checks
2013	Liquid Fuels Fund Canceled Checks
2004	Liquid fuels Fund Deposits
2002-07	Liquid Fuel Fund Bank Statements
1989-91	Medical Forms
2005	Mercantile Tax Forms
2004	Monthly City Real Estate Tax Reports
2006-07	Monthly City Real Estate Tax Reports
1995-97	Monthly EIT Rports
2001-03	Monthly EIT Rports
2009-11	Monthly EIT Rports
1995-97	Monthly Mercantile Tax reports
2001-03	Monthly Mercantile Tax reports
2009-11	Monthly Mercantile Tax reports
2002-08	Monthly School Tax Reports
1993-96	Municipal Building Fund Bank Staements
1985-88	Occupational Tax Ledger
1988	Occupational Tax Ledger
1990	Occupational Tax Ledger
2007-08	Parking Authority Bank Statements
2010	Parking Authority Canceled Checks
1993-1996	Payroll Account Bank staements
2000	Payroll Account Bank staements
2010-13	Payroll Deductions
1987	Payroll Fund Canceled Checks
1990-96	Payroll Fund Canceled Checks
1999-2001	Payroll Fund Canceled Checks
2007	Payroll Fund Canceled Checks
2003-07	Payroll Fund Deposits
1970-74	Payroll Reports
1985-86	Payroll Reports

1997-2002	Payroll Reports
2004-08	Payroll Reports
1973	Per Capita Tax Ledgers
1979-86	Per Capita Tax Ledgers
2006-07	Per Capita Tax Ledgers
2010-11	Per Capita Tax Ledgers
1993	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2004	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2006-07	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2011-12	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2014-17	Per Capita Tax Receipts
1996-2005	PLIGIT Monthly Statements
2009-11	PLIGIT Monthly Statements
1980-85	Police Applications
2007-08	Police Department Bank Statements
2005	Police MMO Report
1991-97	Police Pension Forms
1993-99	Proof of Publications
1994-96	Recreation Account Bank Statements
2000	Recreation Account Bank Statements
2007-09	Recreation Account Bank Statements
1987	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
1990-97	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
1999-01	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2003	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2005	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2007	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2009	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2011	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2013	Recreation Fund Canceled Checks
2003-07	Recreation Fund Deposits
1993	Revenue Printouts
1993-96	School Disbursement Canceled Checks
1997-98	School Real Estate Receipts
2002-03	School Real Estate Receipts
2007-10	School Real Estate Receipts
2012	School Real Estate Receipts
2015-17	School Real Estate Receipts
2001-10	Senior Center Check Ledger
1993-96	Sinking Fund Bank Statements
2007-09	Tax Assessment Appeals
2000-07	Tax Office Yearly Reports
1984-89	Timesheets
2002-03	Timesheets
2010-11	Timesheets
1992	Trial Balance Report
2007	Unemployment Reports

2009  
2011-15  
2007  
2000-13

Unemployment Reports  
Unemployment Reports  
Union Dues  
Yearly Timesheets

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln praised what City Clerk Ohler has done to clear out the fire hall and the hard work he has done to get the job finished.

**Resolution No. 5-18-2021:** “To adopt a Standard Operating Procedure that mandates all event organizers complete a "Utilization Form" when requesting permission for an event within the City. Forms must be submitted before approval of such an event.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**TOPPER:**

Health/Code Officer Report  
New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper thanked Solicitor Tim Witt, City Clerk Vernon Ohler and Code Officer Tom Currey for all their work on the next resolution. He stated this is an updated sign ordinance due to Supreme Court Rulings which caused municipalities to tweak their Sign Ordinances. Councilman Topper stated the City does not have a lot of say in the Sign Ordinance and explained the layout of the ordinance.

**Resolution No. 5-19-2021:** “To introduce Bill # 1 of 2021: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, This Ordinance shall be known as the Sign Ordinance of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The purposes of these sign regulations are to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of identification and communication, to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment of the City of Connellsville, to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety, and to promote and protect the public health, safety, morals, and the general welfare of the City by avoiding the uncontrolled proliferation of signs.”

Mayor Lincoln and City Council discussed some of the issues with signs at the present time.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Topper stated the Zoning changes they are working on should be coming out soon. He also stated with grass growing right now, we are looking into ways to enforce keeping grass cut. He noted

that sending a letter to the owner of a property and then waiting is not working so they need to look into other options. He also added they are going to look into blight this summer.

Mayor Lincoln announced LERTA ends in August.

Mayor Lincoln stated June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM the County is bringing back their Wednesdays Walks. He added this is a fun way to explore the county in the summer. He also added the first one will be in the City at Yough Park where people can see the new visitors center and concession stand. He noted New Haven Hose will be there with their new side by side and General Braddock's Fish Club will be handing out bottles of water.

**Resolution No. 5-20-2021:** "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.