

Connellsville City Council

MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2019

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chuck Hubbell, Rotary update, Pennies for Polio

Jamie McPoyle, Youghzilla Race. McPoyle announced those interested can log on to runsignup.com and type Youghzilla in the search to view information on the race which is Saturday, September 28, 2019. He further added this race will promote Connellsville and the Yough Trail. McPoyle noted he is still searching for sponsors.

Nathan Stefano, Eagle Scout Project, Dunbar Troop #180. Stefano would like to help with access to the Crawford Cabin. He presented City Council with a report of exactly what he would do. Stefano stated he discussed his ideas with the Historical Society. He asked City Council to approve his project.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Stefano for taking on this much needed project.

Calli Tony discussed Wellness on the Yough on September 7, 2019 from 11 AM until 4 PM. She stated all proceeds go to the Connellsville Recreation Board. Tony stated Kickstand Kitchen will be the food vendor this year.

Resolution No. 3-1-2019: "To permit Nathan Stefano permission to erect the gate at Yough Park to replace the chain and help with access to the Historical Society."

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.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by City Treasurer Marilyn Weaver.

Mayor Lincoln questioned Business Licenses turned in.

Weaver answered there are more Business License Registrations this year since notices were mailed out and businesses looked into that have not paid previously.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if Per Capita Taxes were being paid.

Weaver answered that they are and the office has caught people who have not previously paid.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Presented by City Controller Bruce Witt

CORRESPONDENCE:

Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce, Street closure request

Resolution No. 3-2-2019: “To close South Third Street from 11 PM on August 7, 2019 through midnight August 8, 2019 for the Savor the Avenue Event on Thursday, August 8, 2019; 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.

Amy Price, Community Center Board Request

Resolution No. 3-3-2019: “To appoint Amy Price to the Community Center Board effective immediately; term to expire the first Monday in January 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.

Misty Huffine, Community Center Board Request

Resolution No. 3-4-2019: “To appoint Misty Huffine to the Community Center Board effective immediately; term to expire the first Monday in January 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.

New Haven Hose Flag request

Resolution No. 3-5-2019: “To sign a contract with New Haven Hose Company Volunteer Fire Department for two 50-star large American Flags, mounted on a pole and displayed in front of City Hall and in front of the Police Department on ten holidays. Total cost for the contract will be \$80.00; money to be taken from line item #489.546, Miscellaneous Contingency.”

Mayor Lincoln reminded businesses that sign this contract that it is time to send in your money for the flags.

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.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 3-6-2019: “To approve the minutes from the February 19, 2019 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. 3-7-2019: “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:

Mayor Lincoln stated he is going to read a statement and the City was served “papers” today from the Connellsville Community Center Board. He added that City Council will not comment individually until the City Solicitor gives them the “A-OK”.

The statement was read as follows: “The City is thoroughly reviewing the allegations made in the complaint. On it’s initial review the City believes the allegations were grossly mischaracterized the facts in the situation relating to the City’s actions to protect the Community Center and interests of the public. The City intends to fully defend against these allegations and finds that it is unfortunate that the persons claiming to support our community would now seek to attack it at a cost to the tax payers. As it deals with matters in litigation, the City cannot provide any further comment at this time.”

Police Department Report

Chief Hammerle answered Mayor Lincoln concerning the Eighth Street accident and stated when the weather breaks, they will be able to paint new lines to clock speeders.

Mayor Lincoln stressed that it is time for the State to allow radar to be used to catch speeders. He also added he is hopeful PennDOT will put the guiderail in around the corner for safety.

Mayor Lincoln then discussed the County giving the City a K9 Unit vehicle.

Chief Hammerle stated the biggest cost for the K9 Unit is the upstart and vehicle. He added the County and DA’s Office is permitting the Police Department to use their 2009 Dodge Charger which is a Police Package Vehicle. Hammerle added it would be marked as a Connellsville Police car and fitting with the dog insert. He further noted it would be maintained by the County and they will carry the insurance so it does not cost the City money. Hammerle stated “In turn we would make our K9 Officer available to other municipalities in Fayette County that needed a dog.” He added his wages would be paid for by the County Investigative Office.

Mayor Lincoln questioned how the fundraising for the K9 Unit is going.

Chief Hammerle stated the fundraising is fantastic. He added a lot of businesses and residents have mailed in checks for the K9 Unit. Hammerle added after they receive the vehicle, they will purchase the dog and get it trained.

Resolution No. 3-8-2019: "To permit Mayor Greg Lincoln permission to sign any and all PennDOT documents pertaining to the completion of the mural under Memorial Bridge."

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. 3-9-2019: “To accept the donation of a certain 2009 Dodge Charger with a Police Package from Fayette County for the City of Connellsville Police Department K9 Unit. All costs related to this vehicle will be absorbed by the County.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked District Attorney Richard Bower, noting he has gone above and beyond for the City. He further added he appreciates all of his support.

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.

REMINDERS:

Mayor Lincoln stated there will be a telethon in the City to benefit the Community Ministries. He stated the telethon is May 4th from 2 PM – 8 PM and televised at the Connellsville High School cafeteria. Mayor Lincoln thanked Armstrong Cable for helping to revive the telethon. He added they have a Face Book Page: Heart to Hope Telethon and asked all residents to like the page. Mayor Lincoln thanked Somerset Trust for providing the system that will allow donations to be made through PayPal and credit cards. He asked residents to start saving their change so they can dump it in the bank at the telethon.

Recycling: Wards 2 & 4 are on Tuesday, Wards 1 & 3 are on Wednesday
Pickup: March 26th, 27th, April 9th, 10th, 23rd and 24th, 724-436-7739 is the number to call if not picked up
Mayor Lincoln added garbage bids for 2020 will be out soon.

Christian Church, 212 S Pittsburgh St, Free lunch on the 2nd & 4th Monday of every month from
11:30 AM - 1 PM

Mayor Lincoln thanked them for doing this for the community.

March 21st & 28th, Concealed Carry Permits, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, City Hall

Mayor Lincoln thanked Sherriff McCluster for having the mobile unit, noting it makes it easier on residents. He added “do not bring your firearm.”

March 22nd, Last day for Comprehensive Plan Comments to be turned into City Hall

April 6th, New Haven’s Hoagie Sales

April 12th, Gardening 101, 144 N 3rd Street, Youghiogheny Holistic Living, 6 PM - 7:30 PM

April 13th, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Canteen, 8 AM - 10 AM, \$20 per person, Easter baskets given to kids 10 and under, RSVP 724-603-2093

April 13th, Connellsville Police Auxiliary Hoagie Sales

April 14th, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, New Haven Hose, 8 AM - 1 PM, \$7 adults / \$3 kids

April 19th, City Hall Offices Closed

April 20th, Easter Dinner at the Senior Center, 11 AM - 1 PM, FREE
Mayor Lincoln thanked Michelle Stewart for organizing this dinner.

April 27th, City wide cleanup at 11 AM start.
Mayor Lincoln asked everyone to view TEACH Facebook

April 27th, Westley United Methodist Church’s Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner to benefit Wesley Health Center, 4 PM – 7 PM, Adult \$8, under age 12 is \$4, 417 S Pittsburgh St, 724-628-7960

April 27th, Fayette Co. Hard to Recycle, 9 AM - 2 PM, 724-430-4884 for information or contact Shelley at 724-628-2020 for a copy or email of the informational flyer.

Mayor Lincoln added residents can take their TV's to this recycle event.

May 11th, Braddock's Fish Club Event

Mayor Lincoln stated they stock the Yough and give out prizes.

May 4th, at the High School is a paper shredding event for free, 10 AM – 1 PM

Gardening 101 was discussed for June. Mayor Lincoln asked residents to view the Garden Club's Facebook Page.

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 3-10-2019: "To abate and exonerate the City Treasurer from collecting 2019 Real Estate Taxes on City owned properties, which shall be exempt from 2019 City Real Estate Taxes, known and located as follows: Connellsville Community Center, lots 15, 23 and 31, 201 East Fairview Avenue, \$333.59 and Connellsville Community Center, PT lot 7, South Cottage Avenue, \$55.14."

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 Keedy stated he is hopeful to go over the first quarter of the budget with everyone in April. He also noted that the accounts were opened at Somerset Trust and signed for.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak announced the lot by the City Garage is being cleared and almost ready for the groundbreaking of the new cell tower.

Resolution No. 3-11-2019: "To approve City Mission - Living Stones, Inc. Overhead Banner Request, as submitted. Overhead banner is to be erected on West Crawford Avenue and Third Street from April 8, 2019 and removed May 8, 2019."

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. 3-12-2019: "To advertise for the hiring of summer workers for the Public Works Department at a rate of \$8 per hour for a maximum of 35 hours per week for the summer season, such cost to be taken from line item #01430-145."

Councilman Karpiak stated they are not just looking for college kids, they are also looking for retired and all ages.

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. 3-13-2019: "To approve the request of Dunbar Softball Team's request to use Woodruff Field beginning April 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; league to be charged a rate of \$200 per team. The league is also responsible for their own liability insurance and must provide a copy to the City Clerk."

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.

The following resolution was tabled:

Resolution: "To place out for bids replacement of windows and doors at the East Side Fire Station. Money to be paid through 2017 Local Sharing Account."

Resolution No. 3-14-2019: "To grant Jamie McPoyle permission to use Yough Park, in conjunction with the Connellsville Recreation Board to hold the first ever "YoughZilla" Endurance Race, on September 28, 2019."

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. 3-15-2019: "To appoint Dylan Peterson to the Recreation Board effective immediately, with term to expire January 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.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

New Haven Hoagie Sales dates

Councilman Topper added these raises about \$8,000 a year for New Haven Hose.

Councilman Topper announced at New Haven Hose's Banquet Saturday evening, Bill Addis was recognized for attending 299 calls out of 314 calls. He added this is a level of dedication that is wonderful to see. He also congratulated Sean Grist for winning the Chief's award and Ron Marcianti was winning the President's award.

Mayor Lincoln stated the City is very fortunate to have these guys who are always willing to come out and takes these calls.

Councilwoman Tzan announced the Recreation Board now meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 PM

Resolution No. 3-16-2019-2019: "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.

