

**Connellsville City Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 20, 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 and Topper. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Pastor Don Smith led invocation.

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mike Allison from As They Come Rescue proposed a Rescue Event at Woodruff Dog Park. He suggested a table with information on the organization, fostering and applications to adopt a pet be set up. Mr. Allison stated all the animals have been to the vet and ready for adoption. He also discussed selling items and basket raffles along with a dunk tank and corn hole games.

Mayor Lincoln stated the possible opening of Woodruff Park may be May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He added he wants to be sure that date works for the Chief of Police and K9 Officer. Mayor Lincoln stated he should know in the next few days and will let him know.

Dr. Frank Jacobyansky, Recreation Board President, discussed the April 24<sup>th</sup> City-wide clean-up. He announced there are between 70 to 100 volunteers that are mostly school groups. He requested that anyone who spots an area that needs cleaned up to please let him know.

He also stated there were no events this year, therefore there is no money this year. He added they usually spend the money to upgrade the parks so they will depend on fundraisers this year which "we are planning on doing". He announced big events coming up: The River Rally which profits are being split between the Recreation Board and Braddock's Fish Club, there is Wellness on the Yough and Tangled Up In Brew. He added there is summer basket ball program in the parks. He also stated the Recreation Board would like to possibly do movies in the park this summer and a scaled down recreation program.

Mayor Lincoln stated for the clean-up, all the parks have been cleaned in the past as well as the 119 corridor and York Avenue at the Amtrak Station.

Dr. Jacobyansky stated they will not be doing 119 this year due to his not being able to coordinate traffic control.

Pastor Don Smith discussed the National Day of Prayer being the first Thursday in May, which is the 6<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 1 PM at Veteran's Plaza. He added the Adopt a Block is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in July, which is the 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM until 8 PM.

Rita Smith, Fayette County Crime Victims, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Judge Ron Haggerty, Informed City Council that through his office he has been using Community Service workers to clean up the City in lieu of fine money.

Judge Haggerty discussed the Yough River Rally and wanted to be sure there was nothing else they needed from the City for the event. He notified Council they are waiting for quotes for the insurance for the park. He added the response has been great and everything is moving well with the planning. He also stated the tickets for the ducks will be sold at the concession stand on weekends and there are 2,000 ducks with a 50/50 payout. He also said all local foods will be sold, including pizza out of the concession stand.

Councilwoman Tzan read the following resolution:

**Resolution No. 4-16-2021:** “To grant permission to General Braddock’s Fish Club to hold the Yough River Rally on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Yough Park, in conjunction with the Connellsville Recreation Board. General Liability Insurance must be provided with the signed 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.

Mayor Lincoln wish City Treasurer Weaver a happy birthday.

#### **CITY TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer Weaver stated her office is short on collections of about 80 business registrations. She added she believes some of those businesses have closed but will mail out reminders to pay by the end of April and after that there will be a \$20 fee.

#### **CITY CONTROLLER’S REPORT:**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 4-1-2021:** “To approve the minutes from the March 16, 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. 4-2-2021:** “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 and informed City Council of the update training they receive.

Mayor Lincoln stated South Connellsville Borough had their meeting this month and are discussing having the City police take over their police protection 24/7.

Chief Hammerle noted the last Civil Service Test he put out expired and another test will be put out. He noted this is to “build” the list at this time.

**Resolution No. 4-3-2021:** “To donate \$80 to New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department for two American Flags to be displayed at City Hall on eight holidays. Money to be taken from line item 409.266.”

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. 4-4-2021:** “To appoint Ethan Keedy to the Connellsville Housing Authority, Term to expire January 2024.”

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. 4-5-2021:** “To approve and enter into a joint paving project intermunicipal cooperation agreement with Connellsville Township and the Connellsville Area School District; and to authorize and direct the Mayor and City Clerk to take such action as may be necessary to execute and effectuate such 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. 4-6-2021:** “To appoint Kara Addis to the Connellsville Zoning Hearing Board; 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.

**Resolution No. 4-7-2021:** “To grant the Chief of Police permission to conduct testing to update the eligibility list of possible new hires if needed.”

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.

Youth Art judging of flags by City Council:

Mayor Lincoln stated City Council was approached by Dan Cocks from Downtown Connellsville and the Fayette County Cultural Trust to judge Youth Art Month Contest from Springfield Elementary. He added first place is a \$75 gift certificate to Appalachian Creativity Center and the runner up will receive a \$25 gift card to Atkin’s Music. Mayor Lincoln thanked Downtown Connellsville and the Fayette County Cultural Trust for hosting this contest and thanked the students for the entries.

Mayor Lincoln then announced the winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place was submitted by Taylor Knopsnider and runner up is Jason Fletcher.

**REMINDERS:**

April 24<sup>th</sup>, Fayette Co Hard to Recycle Event, 105 Romeo Lane, Uniontown, 724-430-4884 for information

April 24<sup>th</sup>, City wide clean up volunteer day

May 1<sup>st</sup>, Chamber’s Community Yard Sale, 724-628-5500 for information. Mayor Lincoln stated South Connellsville is also having their yard sale that day. He also announced the Amish Donuts will be in town that day and setup at the HR Block Building.

May 6<sup>th</sup>, Nation Day of Prayer, 12 noon until 1 PM at Veteran’s Plaza

May 8<sup>th</sup>, City Spring garbage day, Items to be placed out the evening before. Mayor Lincoln announced items must be placed out the night before because County Hauling will begin collecting items around 2 AM. He added they will not take hard to recycle or toxic items and appliances with freon must be drained and tagged.

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

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 for information. Mayor Lincoln stated Jason puts on a great program and the kids are safe.

Mayor Lincoln discussed the City’s first Diversity Inclusion Board Meeting with Melinda Powell from Mid Penn Bank who created a Diversity Inclusion Council. He added they are sponsoring a Juneteenth

Writing Contest. He further added the deadline is May 21<sup>st</sup> and there will be two winners from each branch announced June 10, 2021. Mayor Lincoln read information on this contest. He added there may be a program on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Veteran's Plaza at maybe 1 PM for an hour-long program. Mayor Lincoln stated he will bring it before Council in May.

**KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 4-8-2021:** "To approve the eligible list of active volunteers as submitted to the City of Connellsville, for tax credits under Act 172 and Ordinance #1533 of 2018 by "qualified Participants" 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.

Councilman Keedy stated the Quarterly Budget Meeting was held last week and they are 3% over what they were last year. He noted that some of the expenditures are going to be reimbursed later in the year therefore possibly being where things were last year.

Mayor Lincoln announced that City Hall will be open May 10<sup>th</sup> with masks required. He added by then, the employees will all have been vaccinated.

**KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 4-9-2021:** "To Place Out for Bids the 2021 Paving Project, all bids must be submitted by May 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM to Widmer Engineering and will be open on May 12, 2021 at 6 PM at Connellsville City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425."

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. 4-10-2021:** "To accept the bid of Navaeh in the amount of \$71,037.00 for the re-roofing of the Connellsville Public Works Garage; pending review and approval of City Solicitor and 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.

**Resolution No. 4-11-2021:** “To hire Chase Bodenheimer as a summer worker 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.”

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 suggested raising the from \$8 to a higher rate.

**Resolution No. 4-12-2021:** “To purchase two planters from the Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce for the front of City Hall at a cost of \$35 each, money to be taken from line item 409.266.”

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. 4-13-2021:** “The City of Connellsville declares its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual adopted December 16, 2008 and amended on March 28, 2016.”

Mayor Lincoln explained this is for the records that have been stored at the Fire Station to be moved. He added the Redevelopment Authority will be putting bids out next month on the building.

City Clerk Ohler stated this resolution allows us to dispose of the boxes and the next resolution states what is being disposed.

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 thanked Vernon Ohler for his hard work at the Fire Station and noted Council discussed a bonus to him for the extra work he has been doing going through the boxes.

**Resolution No. 4-14-2021:** “**WHEREAS**, by virtue of Resolution No. 04- -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:

2010	Payroll Reports
1999	Pension Payments
1987-1990	Per Capita Tax Ledger
2002-2004	Per Capita Tax Ledger
2012-2013	Per Capita Tax Ledger
1994	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2004	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2006	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2010-2013	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2017	Per Capita Tax Receipts
1998	PLIGIT Bank Statements
2006-2009	PLIGIT Bank Statements
2009-2012	Police Fund Bank Statements
1997	Rec Fund Bank Statements
1999	Rec Fund Bank Statements
2001	Rec Fund Bank Statements
2005	Rec Fund Bank Statements
2009-2012	Rec Fund Bank Statements
2006	Rec Fund Canceled Checks
2008	Rec Fund Canceled Checks
2002-2004	School Real Estae Tax Ledger
2011-2012	School Real Estae Tax Ledger
1997-1999	School Real Estae Tax Receipts
2001-2002	School Real Estae Tax Receipts
2007-2008	School Real Estae Tax Receipts
2015-2016	School Real Estae Tax Receipts
1997	Sinking Fund Bank Statements
1998	Tan Loan
1993	Timesheets
2007-2008	Timesheets
2011-2014	Timesheets
2000	U Comp Reports
2014	Unpaid Per Capita Tax
2013	Unpaid School Real Estate Tax
2009	W9's

2009-2012	Act 98 Fire Escrow Bank Statements
2011	Bank Statements
1990	Budget Reports
1995-1996	Budget Reports
2000	Budget Reports
1999	Capital Improvement Fund Bank Statements
2001	Capital Improvement Fund Bank Statements
2005	Capital Improvement Fund Bank Statements
1994	City Real Estate Tax Ledger
2002	City Real Estate Tax Ledger
2012	City Real Estate Tax Ledger
1993-1994	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
1997-1999	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2004	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2008	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
2010-2017	City Real Estate Tax Receipts
1994	Daily Tax Reports
1996-1997	Daily Tax Reports
2003-2005	Daily Tax Reports
1994	Delinquent County Tax Receipts
1999-2000	Delinquent County Tax Receipts
1996-2001	Deposit Books
1992	Disbursement Account Canceled Checks
1998-1999	Disbursement Account Canceled Checks
1988	Downtown Business Authority Check Book
2009-2012	Early Intervention Bank Statements
1993-1994	Expense Reports
1998-2001	General Fund Bank Statements
2005	General Fund Bank Statements
2009-2012	General Fund Bank Statements
1994-1997	General Fund Canceled Checks
2010-2011	General Fund Canceled Checks
1997	Green Thumb Timesheets
1979-1988	Health Reports
2001	Library Fund Bank Statements
2005	Library Fund Bank Statements
2009-2012	Library Fund Bank Statements
2009-2012	Liquid Fuels Bank Statements
2006	Liquid Fuels Canceled Checks
1997	Liquid Fuels PLIGIT Statements
1991-1993	Mercantile Tax Reports
2009-2012	Parking Lot Fund Bank Statements
2009-2012	Payroll Fund Bank Statements
1974-1988	Payroll Reports
1990-1992	Payroll Reports
1997	Payroll Reports
2002-2005	Payroll Reports



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. 4-15-2021:** “To grant permission to Calli Tony to use Yough Park on September 3, 2021 for set-up and September 4, 2021 for Wellness on the Yough.”

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. 4-18-2021:** “To appoint Jason Prutz to the Connellsville Recreation Board, term to expire January 1, 2024.”

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. 4-17-2021:** “To appoint James Flynn to the Connellsville Recreation Board, term to expire January 1, 2025.”

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.

Councilwoman Tzan announced that Representative Warner will host a Shred It Event at the high school on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 2 PM. She added this is for anyone but businesses.

#### **TOPPER:**

Health/Code Officer Report

Councilman Topper reminded residents to keep their grass cut.

Councilman Topper discussed last night at the Redevelopment Authority a bid was awarded to demolish a property on East Crawford Avenue in the Madison and Murphy area. He added this structure burned a couple years ago. He also added the owner had a building permit that was good for two years and the City couldn't do anything legally until that building permit expired. Councilman Topper stated they can now have it torn down.

Mayor Lincoln asked Code Officer Currey for an update on the three properties on Fairview Avenue.

Code Officer Tom Currey stated there is no change yet and he is waiting for the property owner of the primary house to respond back to the City and say what their plans are going to be.

Mayor Lincoln asked if there is any concern of the homes collapsing before they respond.

Code Officer Currey replied yes as one house is resting on the other house. He clarified the properties are vacant at this point. Currey stated a letter was sent Certified to her from the engineering company who said it was a dangerous structure and needs to come down. He added when the green card comes back – as proof the owner received the Certified Letter – he will contact the owner and ask what the plan is.

Mayor Lincoln asked what the time frame is to give them before the City does something.

Code Officer Currey stated there is no time frame yet. He added that it is on the City's front burners and the owner has to get contractors involved.

Mayor Lincoln asked if there is concern for safety of the travelers on the street.

Code Officer Currey answered that it will not fall into the street and what happened is the property shifted and is resting on the property to the right of it. He added it will fall away from the street and noted there may be some blow back.

Councilman Topper updated the Sign Ordinance being written and taken before the Planning Commission. He added there is a procedure that needs to take place before it goes before City Council. He stated it is now being reviewed by the County and he hopes to have it at the next Council Meeting.

New Haven Hose Report by Lieutenant Addis

Lieutenant Addis reminded residents and City Council about the 5K Neon Nights Race on May 8<sup>th</sup>. He added when you come and register, you will get a bag with goodies. He added May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM – 8 PM at the station is pre pick up. He noted the day of the race you can register from 5 PM until 7:30 PM. Addis stated it is \$20 until the 23<sup>rd</sup> and \$5 more after that.

Lieutenant Addis stated they now have their "side by side" and now need a trailer to haul it. He added they need to raise \$1,500 for it.

Mayor Lincoln asked residents wishing to donate to mail checks to: 123 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street to New Haven Hose.

Councilwoman Tzan notified everyone there is a ballot question "should the State expand its low interest loan program for VFD and EMS companies.

**Resolution No. 4-19-2021:** "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.