

**Connellsville City Council**

**MINUTES**

**MAY 19, 2020**

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:**

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

City Treasurer stated moving forward the Tax Office will only accept cash for Parking Tickets and that all else they will only accept Check or Money Order. She further stated the face value will go until the end of October and the penalty will be November and December.

Mayor Lincoln stated most municipalities have changed to accepting Check or Money Order only.

Councilman Keedy stated the City's Auditor stated the change is good for the City.

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

Mayor Lincoln questioned why the Recreation Board's funds are low.

Controller Witt replied the Recreation Board took out \$5,000 this past month.

City Clerk stated the money is being transferred to the new bank which has money and funds have been spent on the new dog park.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 5-1-2020:** "To approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 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. 5-2-2020:** "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

Chief Hammerle stated it has always been a problem on the south side with people going through vehicles along the streets and stealing items. He added that more people are using cameras however people are leaving their vehicles unlocked. He asked residents to lock their vehicles so they do not become a victim.

Councilman Karpiak questioned how the Police Dog has been doing.

Chief Hammerle answered the police made a vehicle stop with the dog and they retrieved a large amount of meth along with \$3,000. He noted they made two arrests on that stop. Chief Hammerle stated the dog has been joining on chases and doing very well.

**Resolution No. 5-3-2020:** "To end the Emergency Declaration that was implemented on March 17, 2020 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.

NO BIDS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE 2013 CHEVY IMPALA POLICE CRUISER.

**Resolution No. 5-4-2020:** "To enter into a lease agreement with Laurel Mountain Leasing on a 2020 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle from Meegan Ford on a two-year lease. Money to be taken from line item 410.375."

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. 5-5-2020:** "To grant the City Clerk and the Police Chief the power to sign any and all papers to execute the lease of a new police vehicle."

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 discussed why the City will be voting on changing the Animal Control Officer.

Chief Hammerle stated the present Animal Control Officer has presented a "lack of service" to the City. He added the police have several incidents with dogs. Chief Hammerle stated he failed to show on numerous cases along with failing to do necessary paperwork required. He added she was not following up on incidents or file charges against the owners. He then explained there were dog attacks on the south side that she never followed up on so the Police Department had to take care of the incident and file the charges. Chief Hammerle stated a child was attacked by a vicious dog and the father got attacked while trying to protect his child. He noted they both had serious injuries from the attack. He further stated she was to file charges and failed to do so. Chief Hammerle stated Hoffman Kennels will try and find the owner of the dogs or a home.

Mayor Lincoln stated when the police find a dog, they post it on their Facebook Page and noted that brings a huge success rate.

Chief Hammerle stated the State Dog Officer informed him that Hoffman's is the most professional with the cleanest facility which is inspected regularly. He added they will follow up with investigations and citations. He explained that when Hoffman gives out a citation, the City will get those funds and it could go towards the cost of paying Hoffman Kennels.

**Resolution No. 5-11-2020:** "To Terminate the contract between the City and Gaydos-Behenna Kennels, for animal control services. Final day of service will be thirty (30) days from today's date, June 18, 2020."

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. 5-12-2020:** "To enter into agreement with Hoffman Kennels, Inc. for animal control services; Start date will be June 19, 2020; Payment to be taken from line item 420.450."

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. 5-6-2020:** "To authorize a temporary exemption for Ligonier Construction from City of Connellsville Ordinance #1492, as amended for Noise Restrictions, and allow "Nighttime Construction" for the work being performed from May 19, 2020 to September 30, 2020 subject to compliance with all other requirements and directives, including mitigation implementation, of the City; such temporary exemption may be revoked by the City for non-compliance."

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. 5-15-2020:** "To authorize the posting for sale of the 2013 Chevy Impala Police Cruiser on Muni Bid; to be sold to the highest bidder and to authorize and direct the City Clerk and Police Chief to execute all necessary documents for posting and sale."

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.

**REMINDER:**

Fishing is permitted at Yough River Park: All social distancing guidelines will still be in place and place garbage in the garbage cans. Mayor Lincoln added groups of over 25 persons are not permitted.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May 26th is the deadline to apply for a mail in or absentee ballot in the June 2nd primary. Mayor Lincoln added anyone wishing to donate to the election workers, masks and gloves are needed.

County Hauling reminders:

1. Cardboard will need to be placed in trash bags for collection given concerns related to the transmittal of the virus via cardboard.
2. All waste must be bagged and no loose trash will be collected.
3. Residents are not to approach drivers.

Community yard sale days, Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500

June 4-6 (no rain dates)

Event extended from one day to three to help with social distancing.

You can sell one day or all 3 days.

No fees and no printed map

There will still be a map that will be uploaded to our website [www.connellsvillechamber.org](http://www.connellsvillechamber.org) and will also be posted on this event page.

If you would like to still donate towards the Chamber's Community Events Committee you can donate online at [www.paypal.me/connellsvillechamber](http://www.paypal.me/connellsvillechamber)

To ensure social distancing we are not going to take payments in person or provide signs or balloons this year.

The CDC also suggests gloves and masks for sellers and buyers. Please abide by social distancing guidelines.

**KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 5-7-2020:** "To make all payments at City Hall by check or Money Order for the following payments: In the Tax Office: Real Estate Tax, Per Capita Tax, School Tax, Business License Fees, and Mechanical Device Fees: In the Administrative Office: Park Rentals, Landlord Registration Fees, Vacant Building Fee, Zoning Certificates, Peddlers Permits, Street Opening Permits, Building Permits, Storm Water Review Permits, Occupancy Permits, Demolition Permits, Sign Permits, Zoning Hearing Permits, Handicap Sign Applications and Fire Report Fees. Parking tickets are the only payment that can be paid with cash."

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. 5-8-2020:** "To extend the face value of the Real Estate Tax payment period from June 30, 2020 to October 31, 2020. Real Estate Taxes paid in November and December will be charged the penalty rate."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Marilyn Weaver and Ethan Keedy for looking into this and noted he feels this is a good move.

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. 5-14-2020:** "To confirm and ratify and to authorize and enter into agreement with Southwest Regional Tax Bureau, for a term to begin January 1, 2020 and to end December 31, 2022, appointing Southwest Regional Tax Bureau as the City's exclusive collector of current and delinquent Business Privileges Tax, current and delinquent Local Services Taxes (Occupational Privilege Taxes), and current and delinquent Mercantile Taxes for each current tax year and all prior tax years, such agreement to be renewed or extended as agreed by both parties and to cover such additional tax years as agreed by both parties."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Shanea Fuller, Tax Clerk for all the work she has been doing.

Councilman Keedy stated she has done an outstanding job getting the payment entered and deposits ready to be taken to the bank.

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.

**KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 5-9-2020:** "To place the bid out for the 2020 Street Paving Program; Bids will be accepted until June 15, 2020 at 4 PM at City Hall; Money to be taken from Liquid Fuels Account."

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 added the Public Works Department are working on the dog park again and he hopes to have it open this summer. He thanked West Penn Power for the \$6,000 that will go towards the dog park.

**TZAN:**

**Resolution No. 5-10-2020:** "To renew the lease Agreement between the City of Connellsville and Lions Square, Inc. for the use of the "Storage Building", located in the City parking lot along west Orchard Alley, for One (\$1) Dollar; Lease will expire May 19, 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 discussed the parks and putting the basketball hoops back up.

Mayor Lincoln stated the summer help began sanitizing East Park and will be doing the same at the other parks. He asked Solicitor Witt for advice on re-opening the parks.

Solicitor Witt stated that City Council can authorize the public to use the parks. He noted that people still need to follow social distancing and not allow groups of over 25 people. He further stated if people follow those guidelines, there are no restrictions of people using the parks.

Mayor Lincoln then asked if Jason Bandamier could have his PE In the Park in June. He added that Jason and Vernon Ohler, City Clerk have been discussing the event could be one instructor for 20 children.

Solicitor Witt answered that again, as long as there are no more than 25 persons gathered, then parks may be used.

Mayor Lincoln stated someone wants to do a basketball camp at Woodruff Park and asked Solicitor Witt if that is permitted.

Solicitor Witt replied that again, as long as there are no more than 25 persons gathered and people are following the social distance guidelines, it is permitted.

Mayor Lincoln stated he would like a flyer made with the guidelines that they can hand out to anyone using the parks.

Solicitor Witt stated if the City hands out the guidelines, then the person it was given to is then responsible for following them. He further stated that if the City receives a report that there are more than 25 people, then the City will need to get involved.

City Clerk Ohler asked City Council if June 1st is a good date to open City Hall. He stated the can limit the number of persons permitted in the building with the buzzer.

Council stated they were fine with re-opening City Hall with guidelines in place.

**TOPPER:**

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper thanked Aaron Zolbrod and everyone who helped out with the fundraiser they did which raised over \$2,000. He then thanked Chief Hammerle for his information and guidance on animal control.

Mayor Lincoln stated he and City Clerk Ohler will have a meeting to discuss a Memorial Day March this weekend. He added it will begin at 10 AM from 1st Street to the Veteran's Plaza. He noted the names of the fallen will be read. Mayor Lincoln stated he would like to be sure Mr. Alan Jones's seven-decade tradition of Marching in the parade will not be broken.

**Resolution No. 5-13-2020:** "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.