

**Connellsville City Council
Minutes
NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

This regular meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:30 PM at City Hall, Connellsville, PA. Attending this meeting was Mayor Lincoln, Council members Karpiak, Geyer, Zolbrod and Ritch. Also attending this meeting was City Clerk Tesauro and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Reminder of the procedures for public participation during City Council meetings.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 11-21-2014: "To waive the 4-day Resolution Rule to allow for items submitted after the 4-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 Councilmen Geyer, Karpiak, Ritch and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Offices at City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving

December 3rd at 4:30 PM in front of City Hall: All children are invited to bring a homemade ornament and place it on the Christmas Tree. There will be a group picture with Mayor Lincoln and Santa. All residents are invited to bring cookies, candy, treats, gifts, etc. to pass out to the children. You may also drop off a donation to City Hall. Anyone wishing to carol, play Christmas music, face paint, make balloons, or whatever you talent may be, please contact Shelley 724-628-2020 ext. 201.

December 6th & 7th, Connellsville Christmas, downtownconnellsville.org for information

December 24th City Hall will close at 1 PM and closed Christmas Day

Living Christmas Tree at Faith Bible Church on December 13th, 14th, and 21st at 7 PM

Reminder to the public if you see anything suspicious to call 911 as it will help the Connellsville Police Department with their investigations

GEYER:

Resolution No. 11-22-2014: "To introduce Bill No. 7 of 2014, AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES PAYABLE BY THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE FOR THE VARIOUS POSITIONS ENUMERATED HEREIN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH."

Geyer noted this ordinance reflects the raises set by the union contracts.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 11-23-2014: "To introduce Bill No. 8 of 2014, An Ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the real estate tax rate and residence tax rate for all city purposes for the fiscal year 2015, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith."

Geyer stated the first reading of the budget shows a millage increase noting we are currently at 7.5 mills and this will raise the City to 8.5 mills. He also stated this totals \$167,744.15.

Karpiak stated he feels one mill tax increase is too much. He added he feels the problem isn't what the City is bringing in; it is what the City is paying out. Karpiak suggested finding a way to have each person in the City help pay for services the City provides rather than just the homeowners.

Zolbrod agreed and explained what will happen if Harrisburg comes in and takes over the City. He noted the City has a chance to save \$88,000 a year by giving the employees new insurance and they voted it down.

Different ways to save money was discussed.

Geyer stated 1/3 of the City's revenue comes from real estate taxes.

Zolbrod and Geyer stated raising taxes is short term solution and the City needs to start cutting expenses. They discussed different ways to cut expenses.

Keller explained the millage.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. Councilmen Ritch and Karpiak voted nay. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 11-24-2014: "To introduce Bill No. 9 of 2014, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SHOWING THE ESTIMATED RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES, AND LIABILITIES OF EVERY KIND FOR ALL THE FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 WITH THE BALANCE OF UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS AS THE BASIS FOR FIXING THE LEVY AND TAX RATE FOR SAID FISCAL, YEAR APPROPRIATING THE VARIOUS AMOUNTS SHOWN AS PROPOSED EXPENDITURES HEREIN FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR FROM THE REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES SET FORTH HEREIN, AND THE REPEALING OF ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTANT HEREWITH."

Geyer stated we are reading a budget of 3.112 Million Dollars. "Our budget balances." Geyer stated. He read over the budget figures. Geyer stated there is room for adjustment on some line items.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. Councilmen Ritch and Karpiak voted nay. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

KARPIAK:

RITCH:

Resolution No. 11-25-2014: "To provide funds for playground equipment for South Side in the amount of \$11,000.00 Dollars, which will be added to the NPP Grant (\$10,000.00) from the Redevelopment Authority, with funds being utilized from the PNC Recreation Fund."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 11-26-2014: "To accept the Lease Extension of the current Lease agreement for between the City of Connellsville; Connellsville Senior Citizen Center Board; and the Connellsville Senior Tigers for a period of four (4) years with an effective date of July 1, 2014 to expire on June 30, 2018."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Ritch and Karpiak wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ZOLBROD:

Zolbrod stated that he agrees with everything Councilman Karpiak stated as far as finding new funding and revenue. He added this has to be done soon and will be an ongoing battle. He also noted council has the responsibility to pass a balanced budget. Zolbrod stated right now the only way to pass a balanced budget is to raise taxes and they don't want to do that. He noted that there is no guarantee that the City will make it through the year, noting if a building falls or bad winters.

CITY TREASURER KELLER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER BROOKS REPORT:

Resolution No. 11-27-2014: "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.