

**Connellsville City Council  
Minutes  
February 18, 2014**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Father Bob led invocation.

Certificate of Commendation was given to six year old Wayne Fuller for aiding in the rescue of his mother and saving her life by calling 911 for help.

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dan Cocks, Requesting the City adopt a Comprehensive Non-discrimination Ordinance

Paula Johnston, Discussed a Non-discrimination Ordinance

Tom Currey, Spoke on behalf of the Board of Health requesting Council review the current valuations of the bonds posted by contractors for the demolition of structures in the City, and to direct the City Clerk and Engineer to reevaluate these amounts. Currey notified Council the Board of Health would like the Demolition Bond of a residential structure to be set at \$5,000.00 and the Demolition Bond for a commercial structure to be set at \$50,000.00.

Currey then discussed a Vacant or Abandoned Structure Registration and Maintenance Code.

Melissa Tzan gave an update of the Recreation Board including summer programs, clean-up of parks, upcoming Triathlon and summer movies.

Mayor Lincoln announced West Penn Power will be the major sponsor for the Triathlon and thanked them. He also stated the Recreation Board is still selling banners at Cat's Court for \$200.00 and there are spots available noting they will be up in April. Lincoln also stated this will be the first season with a Volleyball League.

Tzan announced the Volleyball information is on the Recreation Board's Facebook Page.

Mayor Lincoln announced Pizza King will be donating the pizza for the movies at East Park this year and Bud Murphy's will probably be on board again for donating the popcorn. He thanked each business for their donations.

Lucy King discussed Downtown Connellsville events and the bicycle project on the west side. She announced March 18<sup>th</sup> is a Lunch and Learn and August 9<sup>th</sup> is a Dumpling Festival beginning 11 AM until 10 PM.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 2-1-2014:** “To approve the minutes from the January 21, 2014 City Council Meeting.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-2-2014:** “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, Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

#### **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Discussed the possibility of ice skating in Connellsville and what the City was doing to move it forward.

#### **REMINDER:**

Online courses for Professionals, Free enrollment with library card, [www.carnegiefreelib.org](http://www.carnegiefreelib.org) info  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Battle of the Bands, 4 PM – 10 PM, Porter Theater  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, Board of Health, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers  
March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM & March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2 PM, “Seussical, Jr.” by CACS, Porter Theater  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Recreation Board, 6 PM, City Council Chambers, seeking volunteers  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, Planning Commission, City Council Chambers, Time to be determined later

Lincoln announced the City of Connellsville has a Facebook Page which is City of Connellsville Pa. He noted that it is for informational purposes only. He further stated there is a Master Calendar of Events and if anyone is going to have an event please call Shelley at City Hall or email her the group, time, date and what you will be doing at [connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com). Lincoln stated if you want to have an event, you can look on the City’s Facebook Page, click on the calendar and see what events are already going on for the day. He added the events will also be on the [connellsville.org](http://connellsville.org) website as well. Lincoln urged that people contact Shelley with their event to be posted on the Master Calendar of Events to keep events from overlapping and spread out.

Lincoln noted the musical at the high school is the first weekend in March and will be Shrek.

#### **Police Department Report**

Lincoln announced the City of Connellsville has a Curfew Ordinance: Sunday through Thursday at 11 PM for anyone under age 18 and Friday and Saturday is midnight. He further stated it will be strictly enforced. Lincoln explained there is a \$50 fine per incident and if you don’t pay the fine you can spend up to ten days in jail. He added he is hoping to convince Council to update the ordinance by increasing the fine and jail time. Lincoln stated if you are not able to control your son or daughter, call 911 and an officer will arrive. He further stated they are hoping to put together a group, maybe church leaders, and have a “safe place” for children who do not have a

good home life, possibly a room at the Community Center. Lincoln stated we are a small community and need to come together on this and report anything out of the ordinary in your neighborhood by dialing 911. Lincoln stated if anyone has any ideas on what could be done to help with this situation, please call City Hall and leave him a message. He stated he will do whatever it takes and doesn't want to see more crimes with a 14 year old. Lincoln stated his thoughts and prays go out to Ceasar Gasperi because no-one should ever go through what he went through. Lincoln thanked the officers who were on duty and responded working together and apprehended the three youths were: Captain Steve Shaffer, Sergeant Ryan Reese, Patrolman Hominsky and Patrolman Kendi. He noted Kendi and Hominsky tracked the youths down from East Francis to West Cedar Avenue. Lincoln commended the officers for a job well done and thanked them for their service to the City.

Lincoln announced there are Crosswalk Signs and that is a State Law that you must yield to pedestrians at a crosswalk. He noted this will be enforced by the Police Department.

**Resolution No. 2-3-2014:** "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE TO FOLLOW THE SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSITION OF RECORDS AS SET FORTH IN THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS MANUAL APPROVED ON DECEMBER 16, 2008.

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, a Local Government Records Committee was created by Act 428 of 1968 and empowered thereby to make rules and regulations for municipal records disposition; and WHEREAS, the Municipal Records Manual was approved by said Committee on December 16, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, desires to dispose of records according to statutory requirements and in conformity with said Manual;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, it intends to follow the schedule and procedures for the disposition of municipal records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved by the Local Government Records Committee on December 16, 2008."

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

**Resolution No. 2-4-2014:** "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL RECORDS IN CONFORMITY WITH PRIOR CITY RESOLUTIONS AND THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS MANUAL.

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, by virtue of the resolution passed this same date, the City of Connellsville declared its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved by the Local Government Records Committee on December 16, 2008; 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 FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of 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:

**Location:** East Side Fire Station, North Arch Street and North Apple Street; City Hall, 110 North Arch Street

**Department:** Tax Office (City Treasurer)

**Title(s) or Name(s):** City Per Capita Tax Ledgers; City Real Estate Tax Duplicates; Copies of paid City and School District Real Estate Tax and City Per Capita Tax Receipts

**Date(s):** 1950 through 2003; 1950 through 2003; 2011

**Description:** Per capita tax ledger books and records; real estate tax duplicate books and records; loose paid tax receipts; approximately 150 books and several drawers of loose paid tax receipts

**Classification:** TA-6 (7 years); TA-15 (7 years); TA-12 (2 years)."

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

**Resolution No. 2-5-2014:** "To adopt a Section 3 Action Plan as recommended by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to be in compliance with Federal Regulations."

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

**Resolution No. 2-6-2014:** "To adopt the WBE/MBE ("Women Business Enterprises/Minority Business Enterprises") Plan to promote full participation in all housing and community development programs receiving funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development."

Solicitor Witt announced this is to be in compliance with CDBG Funding.

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

**Resolution No. 2-7-2014:** "To appoint, effective immediately, the following individuals to the Connellsville Planning Commission: Nick Tzan, term to expire the first Monday in January 2018 and Denise White, term to expire the first Monday in January 2018."

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

**Resolution No. 2-8-2014:** "To accept the resignation of Robert Laugherty from the Connellsville Planning Commission effective immediately."

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

**Resolution No. 2-9-2014:** "To appoint Bethany Brown to the Connellsville Planning Commission effective immediately; term to expire the first Monday of 2016."

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

**GEYER:**

**Resolution No. 2-10-2014:** "To open sealed bids for the annual audit for the City of Connellsville for the fiscal year(s) 2013, 2014 and 2015. The municipality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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

City Clerk Tesauro stated the City received four bids.

Karpiak opened bids and Geyer read as follows:

DeBlasio and DeBlasio, \$8,750.00 for one year.

Mark Turnley, \$6,200.00 each year. Geyer noted if the City includes the Sr. Center it will be an additional \$1,500.00.

McClure and Wolfe, Three year quote: First year being \$8,500.00, Second year \$8,800.00, Third year \$9,000.00.

R C Holsinger and Associates, \$9,920.00 and \$9,200.00 with an option to add \$16,000.00 to \$9,517.00 and \$9,500.00.

**Resolution No. 2-11-2014:** "To table the bid(s) of all for the annual audit for the City of Connellsville for the fiscal year(s) 2013, 2014 and 2015."

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

Geyer stated the City Clerk will make copies for Council to review in detail. He further stated this was brought on by the unsatisfactory audit the City had from the 2012 audit.

**Resolution No. 2-12-2014:** "To abate, and to exonerate the City Treasurer from collecting, 2014 City Real Estate Taxes on City owned properties, which shall be exempt from 2014 City Real Estate Taxes, known and located as follows: Connellsville Area Senior Center, 100 East Fayette Street, \$1,781.42; Connellsville Community Center, lots 15, 23, and 31, 201 East Fairview Avenue, \$303.26; Connellsville Community Center, PT lot 7, South Cottage Avenue, \$50.13."

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

**KARPIAK:**

## Public Works Report

Karpiak stated the City has not run out of salt or anti-skid. He further stated there is an emergency route that will be used when the snow is overwhelming and the Street Department will then work split shifts.

Karpiak noted the potholes will be fixed when the weather warms up.

A member of the audience thanked the Street Department for a job well done.

### **RITCH:**

**Resolution No. 2-13-2014:** "To appoint the following individuals to the Connellsville Recreation Board effective immediately: Beth Burd, term to expire the first Monday in January 2016 and James Moore, term to expire the first Monday 2019."

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

Ritch stated if anyone wants to volunteer and support their City, the Recreation Board will not turn them away.

**Resolution No. 2-14-2014:** "To appoint the following non-voting volunteer members to the Recreation Board effective immediately: Bob Topper, Leanne Triggs, Andrea Lawden, Ashley Bailey, Stephen Ritenour, Sarah Guynn and Mikki McMullen for an indefinite period of time."

Ritch stated the difference between voting and non-voting members is your name being on letterhead. He noted the Code states how many members can be on the board but not how many can participate.

Ritch stated Dave Reed is one of the non-voting members and has been in the hospital. He asked that everyone keep him in your prayers.

Lincoln thanked everyone who sent Mr. Reed e-cards and cards through the mail. He noted Reed is a big part of the City and his heart is with the City.

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

**Resolution No. 2-15-2014:** "To request proposals for the rental of the concession stand at Yough Park to any interested party for the period May 1, 2014 through September 31, 2014. Any conditionally accepted proposal shall be required to enter into an agreement, under such terms and conditions as are approved by City Council and the City Solicitor, for the operation of such concession stand."

Ritch stated the stand could be used for snacks and pop, a bait shop, canoes or something else under the supervision of the Recreation Board. He noted it would be "for profit" as well. Ritch stated the lease agreement would have to be approved by Council. He added that a presence in the park may also help deter vandalism.

Geyer added with the park and trail improving over the past few years, it may be a viable business for someone.

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

**Resolution No. 2-16-2014:** "That all persons or groups are required to pay the set fee to rent pavilions and stage at East Park and Yough Park. Non-Profit groups wanting a free pavilion have the option to use Pavilion #3 at East Park on a first come first serve basis."

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

Ritch thanked the Connellsville Police Department for their work in arresting the youths that attacked an elderly gentleman in Connellsville. He also thanked the Street Department for the great job during the snow.

Ritch announced Conn Area Catholic's shows and Battle of the Bands at the Porter Theater. He asked the public to stop in the Community Center's Porter Theater to enjoy the shows.

#### **ZOLBROD:**

Fire Department Report  
New Haven Hose Report  
Health Department Report

**Resolution No. 2-17-2014:** "To approve and sanction the City-Wide Cleanup Event scheduled for April 12, 2014, to be organized by Aaron Zolbrod and other local volunteers; further approving the use of East Park or other City parks for the purpose of organizing and holding said Event. Cleanup participants will include individuals, other organizations and groups in the local area. There will be no cost to the City."

Zolbrod stated they are looking for teams of four or five people. He suggested T-shirts, funny names for teams, and asking businesses to donate prizes for the team that picks up the most trash. Zolbrod asked for people with pick-up trucks to volunteer to go around and collect trash from those picking it up and hand out water to those people. He stated the event will start out at East Park at 10 AM to hand out bags and vests and run until 2 PM where it will also end at East Park. Zolbrod thanked Andrea Joy who helped organize the event. He requested Bob Topper and his men help at East Park with repelling down the hill to get that trash. He suggested maybe three teams of Topper's men compete to see who can gather the most trash. Zolbrod stated anyone interested in registering contact his office, The Health Insurance Store. He also asked that any business willing to donate prizes is greatly appreciated.

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

Pastor Marietta stated he will have a team together and volunteer a truck for the clean-up. He further stated on February 27<sup>th</sup> there will be two or three dedications. He noted one would be a

municipality here in the area who will be receiving a 10 Commandment granite monument. Marietta added that would be held 5:30 PM at the Eagles. He asked that all of Council come out and say a few words.

Karpiak thanked Marietta for all he and his group do. He then stated one person tried to take down the Ten Commandments at the school and the outcome was Ten Commandments going up everywhere.

#### **CITY TREASURER KELLER'S REPORT:**

Keller thanked the Mayor and Council for passing a resolution for disposing some of the old records at the Fire Station and Solicitor Witt for preparing the legal terminology.

#### **CITY CONTROLLER BROOKS REPORT:**

Mayor Lincoln if the City has enough money this month.

Geyer stated the City should be fine noting there is Parking Lot Revitalization money that could be transferred if needed.

Zolbrod asked Keller when the bulk of the taxes were collected last year. Keller answered there was a little over \$400,000.00 last March and \$200,000.00 in April.

Geyer then announced when you come in to City Hall you will see a few new faces. He stated there is Linda in the Tax Office and Joyce in the Administration Office.

Lincoln thanked Seth Prentice and Armstrong for being at the Council Meeting tonight. He further stated how much he appreciates Seth videotaping the meetings each month.

**Resolution No. 2-18-2014:** "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

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