

Connellsville City Council MINUTES

AUGUST 18, 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: Led by Rev. Matt Goldsberry

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Connie Summerson spoke concerning a cat issue in the City of Connellsville.

Solicitor Witt explained that feral cats are an issue in most municipalities. He noted there are non profit organizations that will catch them to spay or neuter them. He stated the City could adopt an ordinance limiting animals on a property, however if the cats are feral then the ordinance wouldn't apply. He also added it would be costly to pay for the means of investigating if the cat does belong to an owner and reviewing cat license and mailings.

Councilman Karpiak answered this subject has come up years ago and he feels it should be easy to license a cat just as we do for a dog. He added there was a problem on the west side with people feeding strays causing them to stay. He further noted he is for a remedy and that the City did get involved in the "capture, neuter/spay and release".

Mayor Lincoln stated he will have the Administrative Secretary call other municipalities and the state to see how they handle the issue. He also suggested she attend the Board of Health Meeting and begin the process there.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 8-1-2020: "To approve the minutes from the July 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. 8-2-2020: "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 asked residents to dial 911 and let them know when they need to respond to a call rather than posting it on Facebook. He further added they don't know something is going on unless they are called. He also instructed residents to lock their cars.

Proclamation, Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education

Resolution No. 8-3-2020: "To appoint Barbara Mongell to the Pension Board; term to expire January 1, 2021."

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. 8-4-2020: "To accept the bid in the amount of \$1,900.00 from Larry Espisito of Wallingford Buick GMC for the 2012 Chevy Impala Police Cruiser. Bids were through "Municibid" website."

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. 8-5-2020: "To grant the City Clerk permission to sign off on any needed paperwork for the sale of the 2012 Chevy Impala Police Cruiser."

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. 8-6-2020: "To introduce Bill #2 of 2020: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC DOG PARKS."

Mayor Lincoln announced the next resolution will enable the Police Department to cite anyone breaking the rules in the Dog Park. He added that anyone under the age of 12 is allowed in the park unless with an adult. He clarified that age 12 to 16 must be with an adult. Mayor Lincoln stated that Animal Control will enforce the dog licenses and vaccines. He noted licenses begin January 1st and there is a \$300 a day fine. Further, he added Animal Control will make patrolling the Dog Park part of their daily routine.

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 the Public Works Department for all of their work at the Dog Park. He added the only reason the park is open right now is due to their work putting all equipment in place.

Resolution No. 8-7-2020: "To donate \$2,500.00 to Fayette EMS; funds to be taken from 489.000."

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. 8-8-2020: "City of Connellsville has completed the Four Factor Analysis and has determined that there are no items identified from the analysis above for this grantee, program or activity that will trigger the need for a Language Access Plan. CERTIFICATION: Based on the above Four-Factor Analysis, the Grantee is not required to develop a Language Access Plan. However, the Grantee will make all reasonable attempts to accommodate language access needs of residents requesting oral translation during citizen participation, income surveys and/or direct assistance intake activities including but not inclusive of public hearings, public notices, advertisements, income surveys and direct assistance intake documents."

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.

Solicitor Witt added this is one of the requirements for Federal Funds and done each year.

Resolution No. 8-9-2020: "A Resolution of the Unit of Local Government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program, as part of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136), and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program."

Solicitor Witt explained the CARES Act provided for additional funds for Municipalities related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and this is for that funding. He added this is approximately \$193,000.00 and does not have to be spent this year.

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. 8-10-2020: "LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS of the City of Connellsville that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status(families with children), or handicap (disability) is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Act) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the

user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. It is the policy of the City of Connellsville to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. Therefore, the City of Connellsville does hereby pass the following resolution."

Solicitor Witt stated this resolution is required to obtain CDBG Funding.

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. 8-11-2020: "To re-designate the City Clerk of the City of Connellsville as the 504 Officer throughout the implementation of the Community Development Block Grant Program. The responsibilities of the 504 Officer include:

1. Coordinating and monitoring the city's compliance with Section 504, as well as state civil rights requirements regarding discrimination and harassment based on disability;
2. Overseeing prevention efforts to avoid Section 504 violations from occurring;
3. Implementing the city's discrimination complaint procedures with respect to allegations of Section 504 violations, discrimination based on disability, and disability harassment; and
4. Investigating complaints alleging violations of Section 504 discrimination based on disability, and disability harassment.

Citizens with Section 504 grievances must submit them to the Section 504 Compliance officer within two weeks of the date the person filing the grievance becomes aware of the alleged discriminatory action. The office will respond in writing to written citizen grievances. Citizen grievances should be mailed to: City of Connellsville, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425. All written citizen grievances will be responded to within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the comments. Should any individual, family, or entity have a grievance concerning any action prohibited under Section 504, a meeting with the compliance officer to discuss the grievance will be scheduled. The meeting date and time will be established within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the request. Upon meeting and discussing the grievance, a reply will be made, in writing, within thirty (30) calendar days. If the citizen is dissatisfied with the local response, they may write to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Keystone Building, 400 North Street, 4th floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120. DCED will respond only to written comments within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the comments."

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. 8-12-2020: "To modify the FFY 2019 CDBG Programs as follows and to direct The Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to file the appropriate paperwork with DCED: To modify the City's FFY 2019 CDBG to eliminate the Community Center Pool Project and to reallocate the \$ 220,000.00 to new activity – Infectious Disease/Emergency Response Center Project."

Mayor Lincoln stated this is for the East Side Fire Station.

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:

John Woodruff Race, October 24th at 10 AM, Visit Facebook: The John Woodruff Club

Mayor Lincoln stated a TEACH is having a volunteer day this Saturday. He added Youghiogheny Glass will be painting a mural on the side of their building and looking for people to help.

KEEDY:

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 8-13-2020: "To accept the bid of Stanford Ruff, Jr. in the amount of \$3,100.00 for the sale of a 1999 F550 Ford Dump with Snow Plow and Salt Spreader; to be sold as is."

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. 8-14-2020: "To grant the City Clerk permission to sign off on any needed paperwork for the sale of the 1999 F550 Ford Dump with Snow Plow and Salt Spreader."

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 announced the City applied for a grant to install 20 trees on East Francis Avenue.

City Clerk Ohler stated the City will know the status of the grant on November 4th.

Councilman Karpiak questioned what the trees would be.

City Clerk Ohler stated he met with the DCNR and decided on maple and oak trees that will be mid-sized.

TZAN:

Resolution No. 8-15-2020: "To authorize and give permission to designated representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to enter upon City property (Austin Park and such other properties as may be identified by the City Clerk) to conduct an invasive species detection survey with the placement of tree banding; at no cost, expense, or liability to the City, all of which shall be borne by the Department of Agriculture."

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

Mayor Lincoln stated New Haven Hose is selling their Breast Cancer Awareness shirts and asked residents to support them. He added they are not holding BINGO right now and that hurts them financially.

Mayor Lincoln then announced he would like for a "911 Service" to be held. He asked residents to submit their ideas and names to volunteer to the City Clerk and added they will need a spot light donated. Mayor Lincoln stated they will ensure social distance.

Resolution No. 8-16-2020: "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.