

**Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2019**

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: Reverend Matt Goldsberry

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jack Loughry, Parking on East Crawford Avenue

Councilman Topper stated Council can ask that she park further down the road and if she does not wish to work with Council, they will look into the sign board.

Chief Hammerle suggested he speak with the woman who drives the commercial vehicle and have her park the vehicle further down the road. He noted he can and will enforce the No Parking Commercial Vehicles in Residential Zones Ordinance.

Next was Rev. Matt Goldsberry, Events for children in the City

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Treasurer Weaver

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Presented by City Controller Witt

CORRESPONDENCE:

Connellsville Elks Lodge #503, Street closure request

Resolution No. 6-1-2019: "To closure North Carnegie Avenue between East Crawford Avenue and Orchard Alley from 7 AM, June 29, 2019 until 9 AM, June 30, 2019 for the Elks Summer Kickoff Celebration; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

John Lypson, Road closure request

Resolution No. 6-2-2019: "To close Wills Road from Jefferson to Kensington for their annual neighborhood block party on Friday, July 19, 2019 from 6 PM -11 PM; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

Chantel Little, Skunk issue – Letter read by Mayor Lincoln

Mayor Lincoln suggested putting together a letter to remind residents they are required to have a lid on their garbage can and NOT put garbage bags out without being in a can.

Councilman Topper added this problem is all over town and not just in one area.

Mayor Lincoln added the residents can trap the skunks themselves. He noted the cost for animal control of skunks would be far too much for the City to pay.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 6-3-2019: "To approve the minutes from the May 21, 2019 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. 6-4-2019: "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 noted at the end of May or beginning of June there was a lot of felonies. He announced a vehicle was stolen from south side store, driven to Bear Rocks and burnt; adding that male is now in prison. Hammerle also stated that two or three juveniles attempted to break-in and burglarize south side store but were caught on camera; he added they are now being prosecuted. He then stated there was an armed robbery at the Sunoco by Bud Murphy's in November. Hammerle explained they obtained a clothing item from the robber and sent it to the crime lab; it came back and the DNA was from a known individual from the area. He announced they arrested him for the armed robbery. Hammerle stated the robbery at West Gate Cleaners was a felony and they were caught and arrested. Hammerle explained during that time there was an individual breaking into homes at the other end of town. He noted that person was caught but they (police) cannot find the owner of the handgun that he had; the male was charged with a felony of carrying a weapon along with loitering at night. Hammerle stated the police found a woman sleeping in a shelter behind Martins then found out she was wanted on a warrant; she was transported to Westmoreland County.

Mayor Lincoln announced a Proclamation for Atkin's Music Store, 50 Years in business will be given in July.

Resolution No. 6-5-2019: "To enter into an agreement with Fayette Festivals, LLC, to hold the annual "Rockin Rib Fest" from Friday, July 5, 2019 to Sunday, July 7, 2019. Fayette Festivals, LLC, will pay the City of Connellsville \$3,000.00 plus have other responsibilities that will be stated in the contract."

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. 6-6-2019: "To close Water Street from West Fairview Avenue to West Peach Street for fireworks on Saturday, July 6, 2019; contingent upon review and approval of the Police Chief and 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.

Resolution No. 6-7-2019: "To grant Patrolman Tyler Garlik permission to re-apply for the Ben Roethlisberger Grant."

Mayor Lincoln announced Officer Garlik has the dog now however he is in training.

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. 6-8-2019: "To introduce Bill No. 1 of 2019: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, TO ENTER AN AUTOMOBILE THEFT/MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE FRAUD INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE AND the BUREAU OF

INVESTIGATION INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FAYETTE COUNTY BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT.”

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. 6-9-2019: “To approve the agreement with the Auto Task Force; pending review and approval of the City Solicitor.”

Solicitor Witt noted due to a court ruling this must now be done by Ordinance.

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. 6-10-2019: "To approve a letter of support to the Connellsville Area Community Ministries application for the Pennsylvania Creative Communities Pilot Initiative Grant."

City Clerk Ohler explained this is a five year grant the ministries is applying for; it is \$20,000 a 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.

REMINDERS:

Recycling: Wards 2 & 4 are on Tuesday, Wards 1 & 3 are on Wednesday

Collection dates: July 9th & 10th and 30th & 31st. ***PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE TWO WEEKS WITH NO PICKUP IN BETWEEN THE COLLECTIONS DATES***

Community Center is host to the Summer Lunch Program provided by the school district, 11:30 AM - 1 PM, July 4th and July 5th are considered holidays and there will be no lunch provided. This is Monday through Friday, lunch only.

Carnegie Library, July 13th, 10 AM - 5 PM, Santa Claus will be signing his book “The Magic of Being the Claus

June thru August, Lions Square Summer Concert begins. Meadow Lane will be closed from Crawford to Orchard each Sunday for the concerts

Carnegie Free Library has numerous events and classes throughout the summer for pre-school to teenagers. Visit their Facebook Page “Carnegie Free Library - Connellsville” or call 724-628-1380.

Rockin Rib Fest is July 5th, 6th and 7th. Fireworks on the 6th.

July 10th, John Woodruff Race, Ceremony at 6:30 PM at Falcon Stadium

July 20th, Adopt a Block Party at Yough Park

Connellsville Garden Club, Art, History and Garden Tour, Saturday, June 29th, 9 AM until 2 PM, \$25 which includes lunch, tickets available at Spotto’s, Canteen and Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Lincoln announced this weekend is Braddock’s Crossing. He added there is a chance with good weather that citizens may be able to cross over; with the reenactment taking place at the same time. Mayor Lincoln stated that anyone over the age of 16 can cross the river as part of the reenactment.

KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy announced that the City's audit has just begun.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 6-11-2019: "To Hire Kyle Trout and Kayden Trout as seasonal employees for Connellsville Public Works Department retroactive to June 1, 2019 at \$8.00 per hour; money to be taken from line item 430.145."

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.

Councilman Karpiak discussed that the Public Work's Department is at time asked to do things when they just don't have the time. He added that it is not that they do not want to accomplish things – it is that they simply do not have the time. He stated, "I am under a lot of unfunded mandates and that stuff keeps on rolling. It does not just have a time; it has a cost. So, if someone would want me to put a sign up for the rail road, that costs over \$37 an hour for one man. That is a two-man job so that is over \$70 an hour. Whether it takes one hour or two hours, the cost goes up. You can see where I am going with this. Right now, through unfunded mandates, we are paying around \$12,500 a year. So, if you have another great idea of putting in another park, not only does the City have to pay for the lighting, water, gas or whatever is used – the City has to also maintain it. As of right now, that is a very hard thing to do. I don't want to be mean, but we cannot afford to have more given to us. It is not free. We have to cut all of the grass in Dutch bottom now. We had to buy another mower just to do that. We don't have the capabilities of going out and hiring four more people for the Public Works Department. I just don't want anyone to get offended when they want me to, for example, set park benches or garbage can or things like that; I got nothing against garbage cans; really, I don't; but it is a cost to the City. Every Tuesday we have two guys, a truck and bags for two hours going around changing garbage bags. I don't mind doing that. I got accustomed to it. I actually got the garbage company to take the garbage out. It's in the contract. But we have to put the bags back in. Just to give you an idea of what we are looking at and the underlying costs and if you are going to do something please bear in mind that we would like to see grant money or whatever used with funds to perpetuate that plan that you have. "

Mayor Lincoln added the City Clerk put a letter together and under Mayor Matthews a resolution was passed that any organization in the City that wants to do anything that involves the City must come to the City and get approval before they do it. He stressed every organization out there got the letter. Mayor Lincoln added they want to see the City grow but not have the burden put back on the City.

Councilman Karpiak added "This is your City, not just the Public Works. It is pretty easy to say you are going to get money or give money to the City – No, that is the easy part. Work it, put hours in and volunteer. That is what is tuff and that is what is needed."

City Clerk Ohler added to keep maintenance in mind.

TZAN:

Resolution No. 6-12-2019: "To accept the resignation of Frances McLaughlin from the Connellsville Parks and Recreation Board effective 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.

Resolution No. 6-13-2019: "To enter into a lease agreement with Laurel Mountain Leasing, for the purchase of a new Ex-Mark Laser Mower for the Public Works Dept. Money to be taken out of line item 450.374 of the City's Recreation 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.

Resolution No. 6-14-2019: "To permit Jason Bandamer permission to use East Park for "PE in the Park", August 5-8 and August 12-15, under the same contractual agreement as previously agreed."

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. 6-15-2019: "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, Jr.:

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper announced the City did not receive proposals for garbage bids because they tried very hard to keep the rates the same. He noted the response was pretty obvious that is not an option. He further stated Council had many discussions about it and are trying to figure some things out. Topper stated the residents of Connellsville is paying a lower rate that communities around them. He stated they are going to put the garbage service out for bid again and ask for more proposals because the City has to have someone. Topper added the City has to remain open minded and it may come with some change; getting the best rate for the residents is a top priority. He added the cost of everything goes up everywhere.

Resolution No. 6-16-2019: "To place a request for Proposals for the City of Connellsville's three-year garbage service contract, with an option for four years, beginning November 1, 2019 and ending October 31, 2022. The Request for Proposals specs to be available at City Hall July 1, 2019. RFP's are due by 5:00 PM on August 6, 2019 and will be opened publicly later that day at 6:00 PM. The municipality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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. 6-17-2019: "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.