

**Connellsville City Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**JULY 17, 2018**

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:**

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

City Treasurer Weaver thanked Cassandra Calkins for her expertise in coping with the inconsistencies found that were "not of her making". Weaver stated Calkins will be missed in the Treasurer's Office.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if the Per Capita Tax is up from last year.

Councilman Keedy stated he believes it is up about \$1,000.00.

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

Controller Witt thanked Cassandra Calkins for her help, noting he will miss her as well.

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No visitors/comments

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Fayette County Cultural Trust, Road closure request for Mum Festival, September 8, 2018

**Resolution No. 7-1-2018:** "To close Crawford Avenue from Arch Street to Pittsburgh Street on September 8, 2018 from 7 AM until 5 PM from the Mum Festival; pending review and approval of 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.

City Church of Connellsville, Parking lot closure request on July 29, 2018

**Resolution No. 7-2-2018:** "To block off the parking lot adjacent to City Church on Sunday, July 29, 2018 from 8 AM until 3 PM for their Children's Carnival; pending review and approval of 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.

Wills Road residents, Request to block off Wills Road, Kensington and Jefferson Streets for a block party on August 10, 2018

**Resolution No. 7-3-2018:** “To close one block of Wills Road between Kensington Street and Jefferson Street from 6 PM to 10 PM on August 10, 2018; pending review and approval of 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.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 7-4-2018:** “To approve the minutes from the June 28, 2018 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. 7-5-2018:** “To approve the minutes from the July 5, 2018 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. 7-6-2018:** “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 there are issues with parking in the grass areas of Yough Park even though there is a sign stating NO PARKING. He noted they have been ticketing vehicles and a fence needs to be put up. Hammerle added in order to have the vehicle towed, there needs to be proper signage stating the vehicle will be towed at owner’s expense – which the City does not have. He further explained the

police cannot find the owner(s) of the vehicles because they are rafting, usually for hours. Hammerle stated the City needs to look at other avenues to fix the problem.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is all for the ticketing and towing because anyone who ignores the sign should get both. He added he would like to see everyone have a nice time, noting they also need to follow the rules of the park. Mayor Lincoln stated a lot of things need to be done at Yough Park, adding he witnessed dogs running without leashes and smoking out of control and other things.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if something could be done to accommodate boat trailers, as they are trying to back up.

City Clerk Ohler stated there were 5 or 6 boat stalls over there but taken out when the hotel was built.

The parking issues were discussed further with Councilman Karpiak suggesting using a shuttle from the old Bradley Paint and behind Martins Plaza to Yough Park.

Chief Hammerle announced the police began their new computer system last week and are doing well with it.

Councilwoman Tzan thanked Chief Hammerle for the police's assistance at Yough Park and the parking issues.

Hammerle noted they did not get to spend as much time at Yough Park as they would have like to due to an incident at East Park that required their attention for most of the day. He added only two men were on duty that day.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if the Auxiliary Police could assist in parking issues.

Chief Hammerle answered the Auxiliary Police are short on time and manpower due to covering all that is going on in the City right now.

Mayor, Councilmembers and Chief Hammerle commended the auxiliary for all they do.

Highlands Hospital Day Proclamation

**Resolution No. 7-7-2018:** "To modify their FFY 2016 CDBG Program as follows and to direct the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to file the appropriate paperwork with DCED:

1. To Modify the City's FFY 2016 CDBG Program to eliminate the York Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project.
2. To allocate the \$204,719.00 to a new activity – Connellsville Senior Citizen Center Project."

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:

Farmers Market each Saturday 8 AM to Noon through September 29<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Lincoln stated the Amish Donuts will be back on July 28<sup>th</sup>

Free Community Lunch at Christian Church of Connellsville, 212 S Pittsburgh Street, 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 11:30 AM until 1 PM

July 20<sup>th</sup> from 4 PM to 10 PM and 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 PM to 10 PM, Halloween in July, Sponsored by Appalachian Creativity Center, 724-208-1746

July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM, Free family movie "I can only imagine", Christian Church of Connellsville, 212 S Pittsburgh Street, 724-628-3802

July 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 PM, Early Coal Mines of H C Frick, Canteen

July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Lions Square is Abilene Band - July 29<sup>th</sup> is Shelly McCombie, each Sunday through August 26<sup>th</sup>

July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> is Recycling and August 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

August 4<sup>th</sup>, Appalachian Creativity Center, Kids Camp, 10 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 3 PM

August 4<sup>th</sup>, New Haven Hose Hoagie Sales

August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Catholic Community Festival, St. John's Festival, Somerset Bank Area

August 9<sup>th</sup>, Savor the Avenue, 6 PM, by the Chamber of Commerce

August 11<sup>th</sup>, Fayette Co. Hard to Recycle at the FC Fairgrounds, 9 AM - 2 PM, 724-430-1210, One TV per car

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wellness on the Yough

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Connellsville Police Bike Run, Yough Park

Mayor Lincoln encouraged residents to sign up for the following:

Sign up for Code Red Alerts at [www.fcema.org/codered](http://www.fcema.org/codered) and save the severe weather warning phone number to your phone: 800-566-9780

View reminders and pavilion rental dates on the City's website: [www.connellsville.us](http://www.connellsville.us)

**KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 7-8-2018:** "To accept the resignation of Cassandra Calkins; last day of employment will be August 6, 2018."

Councilman Keedy thanked Cassy for her years with the City noting she has done a great job. He noted she was instrumental in getting the bookkeeping position to where it is today and it hasn't been this well in years. Councilman Keedy added Cassy made everyone feel welcome here and will be missed by everyone.

Councilman Karpiak noted he does not want to leave her go.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. Councilman Karpiak voted nay. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 7-9-2018:** "To advertise for the position of Bookkeeper and Tax Clerk, salary and benefits to be determined by the Administrative Contract. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM Thursday, August 9, 2018 at City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425."

Councilman Keedy stressed QuickBooks is the software the City uses and is instrumental to know.

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 Keedy announced the TAN Loan is paid off. He added the City budgeted \$5,000 for interest and only spent \$990.00.

**KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak announced it took eight or nine years to get a crack sealer and it is now one of the most important tools the City has. He added it will fix and save roads which saves money in the long run. He further noted the street sweeper has saved the City money as well.

Councilman Karpiak thanked the Public Works Department for the work on the streets noting the City looks great. He also noted Apple Street is now repaired and not flooding.

Councilman Karpiak addressed paying off the TAN Loan. He stated a TAN Loan is fine when you use it for what it is meant for which is just to get the City through a few months and then pay it off. He thanked everyone who worked on paying that off. Karpiak added the TAN was once \$675,000.00 and the City is now out of the hole.

Councilman Keedy thanked the Public Works Department for fixing potholes.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Public Works Department for all of their help with the RibFest. He further added it has been a busy year for that department, noting the homes on Dutch Bottom are almost down and that means more grass for that department to cut. Mayor Lincoln again thanked them for all they do.

Councilman Karpiak added it will be easy to cut the grass at Dutch Bottom now that it is leveled and the sewer lines are out.

City Clerk Ohler noted he met with PEMA and they stated all is going well with the demolition.

Mayor Lincoln announced the Redevelopment Authority awarded a grant for drains on East Francis Avenue.

**TZAN:**

Councilwoman Tzan reminded residents about Wellness on the Yough, noting there will be vendors and a nice time.

Councilwoman Tzan then reminded residents they are not permitted to park in or drive through the parks. She added they are going to order signs that will enable them to tow away vehicles.

Mayor Lincoln announced July 29<sup>th</sup> the City is dedicating Mountz Park to the Williams Company. He added the City is dedicating the field, will have the National Anthem and a wiffle ball game against the Williams Company which has about 15 employees playing. Mayor Lincoln stated it will be a fun day and invited the community to come down and watch. He added it is at 1 PM and Kevin Harrison will be the announcer. He further added this will be a day to see how awesome the park has become. Mayor Lincoln noted if you are looking for a park to have a family reunion, this is the park to take a look at.

**TOPPER:**

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

**Resolution No. 7-10-2018: "To introduce Bill No. 3 of 2018, AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE KNOX BOXES AT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS: WHEREAS**, the City of Connellsville has determined that an ordinance is necessary to require all commercial buildings with monitored alarm systems to install Knox Boxes, and; **WHEREAS**, the benefits of installing Knox Boxes include providing immediate emergency access to firefighters, leading to increasing Fire Department efficiency; preventing costly forced entry damage and allowing undamaged doors to be re-secured after the emergency; and protecting property, inventory, equipment and supplies as well as firefighters against possible injuries."

Councilman Topper stated this is any commercial building with an alarm system which includes churches will be required to have this. He added they have six months to get the alarm and it will cost them approximately \$400.00.

Mayor Lincoln questioned the security of the Knox Box.

Councilman Topper stated there is a key inside the Fire Trucks and/or the Fire Chief has the keys who is bonded. He explained the key they will have will open the Knox Box which will have the key that opens the commercial building.

Councilman Karpiak voiced his concerns that this will be once more things for business owners to buy when opening a business in the City. He also questioned if the key with New Haven Hose gets lost, then what will happen.

Councilman Topper answered New Haven Hose will have one with the Fire Chief, the ladder truck and another truck. He added the owner should have the master key.

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. 7-11-2018:** "To accept Sam Vargo's request to opt out of his contract with the City of Connellsville as Animal Control Officer, effective August 12, 2018, as stated in the contract."

Mayor Lincoln asked for clarification on this resolution, noting Mr. Vargo signed a one-year contract with the City of Connellsville. He further questioned how Mr. Vargo is getting out of this contract.

Solicitor Witt answered there is a clause that states with a thirty-day notice either the City or Mr. Vargo can terminate the contract.

Mayor Lincoln added the City put in their budget to pay for his service for the year.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if the City is going to bid this out again.

City Clerk Ohler answered he is getting quotes from other companies.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is not supporting this resolution because the City did not budget for anyone else.

Councilman Karpiak questioned how often Mr. Vargo has been called out per month.

Mayor Lincoln answered that Vargo has been called into the City a lot, noting he has called to complain to the City Clerk about that.

Councilman Karpiak asked if the City does not let him out of the contract, can Vargo leave the contract anyway.

Solicitor Witt answered yes.

Councilman Karpiak expressed the need for animal control.

Mayor Lincoln stated about 90% of the time, the Connellsville Police Department handles the calls. He added they will pick the animal up and take it to the station, take pictures and post them and then return the animal to the owner.

Chief Hammerle added they will continue to do what they are doing; however, they do not have the facilities to handle "wild dogs". He added the last time the Police Department called Sam Vargo, he refused to come into the City to do his work.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Tzan and Keedy. Mayor Lincoln and Councilman Karpiak voted nay. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln stated the Police Department have a Special Investigative Fund from patrols at Highlands Hospital. He thanked Chief Hammerle and Councilman Topper for the four suits purchased for New Haven Hose's rescue boat.

Councilman Topper stated this year has been the most that New Haven Hose has used the boat.

Chief Hammerle stated there was a highly intoxicated individual who refused to come to shore for the police. He added they called New Haven Hose who brought the boat and together they grabbed her out of the water.

Chief Hammerle added another incident in which a passenger from the Amtrak walked to the river, slipped and knocked their self out ending up stranded in the middle of the river, prompting police to call New Haven Hose who came with the boat and save the man.

**Resolution No. 7-12-2018:** "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.