

**Connellsville City Council MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2022**

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:00 PM. Attending this meeting was Council members Karpiak, Keedy, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Led by Chuck Hubbell

POLICE PROMOTIONS:

Resolution No. 10-1-2022: “To promote Bryan Kendi to the rank of Sergeant effective November 1, 2022 for the Connellsville Police Department, wages set through the Collective Bargaining Unit of the Police Department.”

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

Resolution No. 10-2-2022: “To promote Brian Connors to the rank of Sergeant effective November 1, 2022 for the Connellsville Police Department, wages set through the Collective Bargaining Unit of the Police Department.”

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

OATHS:

Bryan Kendi and Brian Connors

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frank Jacobyansky, Recreation Board President stated the Recreation Board received four estimates for fencing at Second Ward Playground. He added the swing sets at Woodruff Park have been removed because they are too dangerous. Jacobyansky added the Recreation Board got an estimate to replace the swings for about \$7,000 for installation and delivery. He stated in 2023 he would like to have all the parks looked at to see what is needed and what they can purchase.

CITY TREASURER’S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER’S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Payne A.M.E. Church, Reservation of parking, November 8, 2022

Resolution No. 10-3-2022: “To grant permission to Payne A.M.E. Church at 812 West Crawford Avenue, to reserve the parking on the block of West Crawford Avenue in front of the church from 11 AM until 6 PM on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for their Election Day Dinners.”

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

Roger Suter & Sons, Inc., Donation of 2 wreaths on Officer McCray Robb Bridge

Resolution No. 10-4-2022: “To grant permission to Roger Suter & Sons, Inc. to donate two wreaths and permit the Public Works employee(s) to assist with hanging the wreaths on the Officer McCray Robb Bridge as requested on the Utilization Form.”

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 10-5-2022: “To accept the minutes from the September 20, 2022 City Council Meeting.”

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

Resolution No. 10-6-2022: “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 Karpiak, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report

Chief Hammerle and City Council discussed the new vehicle the Police Department should have in a month.

Mayor Lincoln and Chief Hammerle discussed a possible new hire who could begin January 1, 2023.

Chief Hammerle informed City Council the Civil Service Rules have not been updated since 1976.

Redevelopment Authority CDBG and CV Program Report

Resolution No. 10-7-2022: “To approve all changes to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations Manual for the City of Connellsville.”

Solicitor Witt explained the Rules and Regulations explains the procedures for new hires and promotions. He noted there have been updates to the Third-Class City Code in 2015 there were incorporated into the new Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

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

Resolution No. 10-8-2022: “To introduce Bill #4 of 2022; an Ordinance of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 1, Part 12 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Connellsville relating to Civil Service Rules, examinations, hirings, and promotions; repealing all inconsistent ordinances or parts thereof; and providing an effective date.”

Chief Hammerle stated they do not take tax dollars for the K9 Officer Ambrose. He explained they have a bank account for this with funds coming from donations, businesses, residents, organization and fundraisers.

Mayor Lincoln explained it was removed from the new ordinance how a K9 Officer’s handler would be promoted.

Solicitor Witt explained the new ordinance makes clear the Civil Service list remains current for 2 years.

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

Resolution No. 10-9-2022: “To hire Connor Tibbe as a Patrolman for the Connellsville Police Department starting January 1, 2023, with salary to be taken from the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement and those funds taken from line item 410.142.”

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

Resolution No. 10-10-2022: “To approve the new Body Camera and Car Camera Policy retroactively and to be placed in the Police Policy and Procedure Manual.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Chief Hammerle for finding a grant for the body cams and noted it is very much needed in today’s world to protect the police during their interactions with others. He thanked Solicitor Witt for working with Chief Hammerle on everything.

Chief Hammerle thanked City Clerk Ohler for putting in so much time working on the grant.

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

Resolution No. 10-11-2022: “The City Council of the City of Connellsville, hereby re-designates the City Clerk of the City of Connellsville, to serve as Section 504 Compliance 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 Karpiak, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 10-12-2022: “A Resolution of the City of Connellsville, 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 (CDBG) Program, as authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act (42 USC 5301 and 24 CFR Part 570), and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest that the City of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, receive funds from the Commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville has the legal authority and responsibility under Act 179 to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville have undertaken a considerable citizen participation process including written invitations to municipalities, informational meetings, hearings and legal notices all of which culminated in the prioritization of projects and development of a Community Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville are familiar with the requirements of the program as provided for in the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) and the Community Development Block Grant regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville wishes to apply for said funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Connellsville that the Mayor is authorized to have prepared the necessary forms and documents to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant funds for the purposes aforesaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if CDBG funds are determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be expended on ineligible program costs or do not meet a national objective, the City of Connellsville agrees to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community Development Plan was developed in coordination with low and moderate individuals, interested organizations, non-profits and other interested parties through the citizen participation process and municipal information gathering is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Connellsville is empowered to place his/her signature, on behalf of the governing body, on necessary application forms and affix thereto the official seal of City of Connellsville.”

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

Resolution No. 10-13-2022: “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 (including gender identity and sexual orientation), 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 (including gender identity and sexual orientation), 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.

BE IT RESOLVED, that within available resources the City of Connellsville will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), 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 to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the local Fair Housing Officer, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, whichever is chosen by the person filing the complaint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Connellsville shall make publicly known this Resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and any local laws or ordinances.

FURTHER ACTION will at a minimum include, but not to be limited to:

(1) Publicizing the name and contact information of the local Fair Housing Officer, which will include the process to file a complaint if a person feels they have been discriminated against in housing in any

manner and other applicable fair housing information through local media and community contracts; and

(2) Conduct at least one fair housing activity annually to better inform the public of their rights under the Fair Housing Law and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; and

(3) Use the fair housing logo on all materials dealing with housing programs such as but not limited to:

a. Public advertisements for vacancy or discussing the program

b. Applications for assistance

c. Contracts

d. Municipal letters dealing with the federal programs

If you're a person with a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to be able to access any notification, please contact the business offices of City of Connellsville 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, 724 628 2020, connellsvillicityclerk@gmail.com and www.connellsville.us.

If you have Limited English Proficiency and require a document translation of any notification, please contact the business offices of City of Connellsville 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, 724 628 2020, connellsvillicityclerk@gmail.com and www.connellsville.us. Approved at the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Connellsville held October 18, 2022."

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

Resolution No. 10-14-2022: "The 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."

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

Resolution No. 10-29-2022: "That Thomas Jaimeson, TEDA J. FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and ST JOHNS EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, being owners of the relevant real property abutting portions of the line of a portion of Meason Avenue and an unopened street/alley in the City of Connellsville, hereby petition the City of Connellsville pursuant to 11 Pa.C.S.A. § 12918(a), to join, as the title owners and interest holders of abutting nearby property, this petition and to vacate such street/alley, and in support thereof aver and agree."

Solicitor Witt explained there is a portion of that in and adjacent to their property and a portion of Meason as well. He noted this is an introduction and to introduce an ordinance that would vacate those portions. He added the next step is to advertise the ordinance and have a public hearing at the next meeting.

Mayor Lincoln questioned who pays for the advertising.

Solicitor Witt stated that is the City's prerogative. He added most municipalities do require the advertising costs be paid by those requesting vacating streets and alleys.

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

Resolution No. 10-30-2022: “That ETHAN KEEDY, an adult individual, BERNADETTE LONG, an adult individual, JOSEPH HARDK AND LAURA SAUCERMAN, adult individuals, MICHAEL GUSRAFON, an adult individual, and KENNETH SNYDER JR., an adult individual, being owners of the relevant real property abutting portions of the line of a portion of and an unopened street/alley in the City of Connellsville, hereby petition the City of Connellsville pursuant to 11 Pa.C.S.A. § 12918(a), to join, as the title owners and interest holders of abutting nearby property, this petition and to vacate such street/alley, and in support thereof aver and agree.”

Solicitor Witt explained there is an unopened alley that has never been used and this would officially vacate that alley so that it is no longer a public alley. He added these people would officially take ownership of that alley adjacent to their properties.

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

Resolution No. 10-31-2022: “To approve the new Bylaws from the Diversity and Inclusion Board.”

Mayor Lincoln stated the only change is increasing their membership from 5 to 7 people.

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

Reminders available on the City’s website: connellsville@connellsville.us

Mayor Lincoln announced everything going on is on the City’s website and if there is something going on, even in the township, call Shelley and she will put it on the website. He added that during the planning stages of an event, to look at the website and see what else is going on so you can maximize your efforts to raise money.

October 21st, Deadline for the Halloween Home Decorating Contest. Mayor Lincoln thanked Premiere Dance Studio for being a sponsor of the event. He thanked everyone who signed up.

October 25th, 113th annual New Haven Hose’s Halloween Parade at 7 PM, 724-880-6920 to register
October 31st, Trick or Treat, 6 PM – 8 PM. Mayor Lincoln asked residents to walk with their children rather than follow them in a car.

November 4th and every Friday, 4 PM – 7 PM, Cooking with the Community, Kitchen Program, Grades 6th – 12th, Connellsville Church of God, 724-628-3510. Mayor Lincoln thanked the Church of God for always stepping up with these programs. He gave a shout out to Community Ministries for sponsoring this program.

November 5th, Warriors Rock, CAHS Auditorium, 7 PM, Call Linda at 724-322-1494. General Admission \$25, Veterans \$10, Reserved \$40. Mayor Lincoln stated the Temptations will be there.

November 5th, New Haven Hose, last hoagie sales for the year

November 5th, Chili Walk, 11 AM – 2 PM, \$10 tickets available at the Canteen and participating restaurants, Facebook: Downtown Connellsville for information

November 8th, Payne AME Church, Election Day Dinner, 11 AM – 6 PM, \$15, Pre order 724-626-8336 (leave message with name and # of dinners) by November 5th. After that, call 724-628-6193. Reserved spots are in front of the church from 11 AM – 6 PM with members bringing your order to you and collecting your money. You then turn right onto Henderson Lane. Mayor Lincoln encouraged residents to pre-order.

November 10th, Day of Giving/Fayette County, City Mission's shelters are full and they are being forced to turn people away. They are requesting a donation of \$25 or more to support the men, women and children needing shelter, 724-439-0201, www.citymissionfayette.org. Mayor Lincoln added you can look at Community Actions website and see the list of everyone you can donate to. He added funds will be matched.

November 11th, Veteran's Day Parade at 10:30 AM, hosted by the Connellsville Veterans Commission. Mayor Lincoln stated a large portion of the Veteran's Memorial has been done by George Jay and looks great. He added they are hoping the slabs will be in by then.

November 11th, City Hall Offices closed

November 10th, Judy Keller will be doing a book reading from 6 PM until 7 PM at the library and will be donating 25% of her sells to the Honor Roll

November 12th, 1 PM – 4 PM, Kindness in Connellsville's World Kindness Day, Senior Center, food, crafts, vendors, book reading, guest speaker and more. Facebook: kindnessinconnellsville

November 19th, 11 AM – 3 PM, Christmas in the Park, Yough Park, Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500 Mayor Lincoln added they were looking for volunteers to help with hanging the lights on the poles.

November 26th, Christmas Market at East Side Fire Hall beginning 11 AM until 4 PM. Small Business Saturday in the City, Pictures with Santa, Children can make an ornament for the City Christmas tree, Followed by Light up Night and the Christmas parade at 5 PM. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500. Mayor Lincoln thanked the Chambers for all they do.

City Clerk Ohler stated November 4th Highlands Hospital will be giving booster shots at the Fire Station beginning 9 AM until 2 PM.

Solicitor Witt requested someone make a motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution authorizing the city to apply for the PennDOT Multimodal Grant.

City Clerk Ohler stated this came in today and is for the Wills Road wall.

Mayor Lincoln made the motion to add a resolution authorizing the city to apply for the PennDOT Multimodal Grant. Councilwoman Tiberio seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: affirmative were Councilmembers Topper, Karpiak, Tiberio and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was passed.

Resolution No. 10-15-2022: "To authorize and adopt a resolution incorporated herein by reference to authorize the submission of an application for the PennDOT Multimodal Grant in an amount not to exceed \$950,000.00 and to authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and such other necessary public officials to execute such application and take all other necessary actions, including execution of such resolution."

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

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 10-16-2022: "To pay \$12,761.00 to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System for the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Payment; monies to be taken from line item #483.300."

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

Resolution No. 10-17-2022: "To pay \$457,567.00 into the Police Pension Plan in order to satisfy the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO), monies to be taken from line item 410.160."

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

Resolution No. 10-18-2022: "To pay \$109,014.00 into the Fire Pension Plan in order to satisfy the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO), monies to be taken from line item 411.160."

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

Resolution No. 10-19-2022: "To enter into an agreement with McClure and Wolf to conduct the annual audit for the fiscal year(s) 2022, 2023 and 2024 at the rates of \$11,000, \$12,000 and \$13,300 respectively. Services will also include preparation of all annual DCED Financial Reports. Expenses to be taken from line item 402.301."

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

Resolution No. 10-20-2022: “To enter into a contract with Culligan Water from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; for the Police and Street Departments and Administrative Offices; money to be taken from line item 409-250.”

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

Resolution No. 10-21-2022: “To contract out the City of Connellsville's payroll to Scarry and Associates, LLC at a cost of \$300.00 per month for 12 months; monies to be taken out of line item 402.330.”

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

Resolution No. 10-22-2022: “To enter into a one-year contract with Cintas for rugs at City Hall as stated in the August 3, 2022 proposal; money to be taken from line item 409.250; contract begins February 22, 2023 and ends February 22, 2024.”

Councilman Keedy thanked Shelley for reaching out to the companies and comparing prices.

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

Resolution No. 10-23-2022: “To transfer \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Investment Account.”

Councilman Keedy explained by transferring this and earning interest, the city should be good until the end of the year.

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

Councilman Keedy thanked everyone for attending the budget meetings and noted he wants to have one more meeting.

KARPIAK:

Health/Code Officer's Report

Councilman Karpiak asked everyone to look at his Quality-of-Life Report and noted he has been handing out tickets for the past month and taken in around \$1,900. He added there are many more to come but there is a 14-day waiting period. Councilman Karpiak added Tom Currey is on it and it is working.

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Karpiak asked Bill Addis to give advice on extension cords for Christmas.

Bill Addis replied that everyone needs to check their batteries in their smoke detectors and CO's. He noted to also check the dates because he personally recommends 7 to 10 years to replace them. He then added he understands that heating is expensive this year but do not plug in anything to an extension cord that is drawing that many watts because it will catch fire. Bill Addis expressed not to use your generators or kerosene heaters inside your home. He noted they have had that happen before and the results are not good.

Councilman Karpiak stated he has a resolution under his department which he did not write. He stated he asked members of the Board of Health if they wrote it and no-one did. He further noted that he did not have input in this. Councilman Karpiak stated he has been here 12 years and never had this happen and I never wrote a resolution for someone else's department. He added he has questions about this resolution.

Solicitor Witt stated to discuss it on the floor there will need to be a motion and a second.

Councilman Karpiak made a motion to discuss the resolution and Councilwoman Tiberio seconded the motion.

Councilman Karpiak stated the resolution reads to establish a \$25 fee and this is to reimburse the city for their time in this. He noted he did some rough calculations on this and Tom would basically have to do this in 35 to 40 minutes to be in the \$25 range. He noted after that, the city is spending money that they are not recouping. He added with court and hours there, that is money being lost.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she thinks if it ever went to court it would always be on the property owner if it wasn't resolved.

Councilman Karpiak made clear that the city doesn't know that.

Mayor Lincoln questioned Solicitor which was right.

Solicitor Witt answered the way this resolution is worded is if there is an incident where there is a delinquent garbage account and the garbage company as the contracted garbage company for the city, has to reach out and involve the city in terms of some sort of administrative function to find out information on that account or attempting to conform whether or not there is service or accumulation of garbage or whatever it may be, if it is confirmed to be a delinquent account that city would have the ability to assess a \$25 lienable fee against that particular service property. Solicitor Witt stated it could be done a few different ways like file a formal lien but it is not cost effective to file a \$25 lien. He said the city can send an invoice to the property owner but there is a concern that if they are delinquent on garbage, they may not pay that invoice. He stated if there is a claim against the property owner through the magistrate, this would be an additional restitution fee that would be added to the citation for non-payment of garbage or whatever the citation is issued for.

Mayor Lincoln questioned what the purpose of the letter is. He stated "We send the letter out and then what happens?"

Solicitor Witt stated he wasn't involved in the discussions about this but assumes it is to recoup the money from the expenses and administration the city has in this.

Councilman Topper stated he has dealt with this more than anyone. He added there has been efforts made to come up with a list and find out who is delinquent because it costs us and residents money. He added this is an attempt to remedy that problem as we keep getting it thrown in our faces. He added they have ideas of what they want to do like taking the one-year option with County Hauling, while we have reservation of how that may play out, we wanted that extra year. Councilman Topper stated to him, this is a step in trying to solve that problem which definitely needs solved. He added he does have some concerns that the garbage company should be making more of an effort because there are people who are delinquent that don't even know it. He questioned if late letters are being sent out and added some people are not getting a bill period. He stated while he kind of likes the idea of this step, he feels it needs more time and he would be for tabling this without taking a vote right now and revisit it. He expressed his concerns that if letters were sent out to people that have paid or it is a mistake or they take it as a threat or personally. He stated they don't want people to feel the city is attacking them. He stated at the end of the day, they are paying a debt to County Hauling, not the city because the city is not getting that money.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated the city is getting penalized and a part of this is trying to get this right.

Councilman Topper stated his question does not seem to be able to be answered is how much. He added if the city does these steps and clean up things on the city's end, what can the city look at. He stated they are bidding the garbage contract back out next year and have no idea what the contract can be like. Councilman Topper questioned how much does the city get back for taking this on, 20%?

Mayor Lincoln stated according to County Hauling, whoever Vernon talked to, she told Vernon there will be no savings for us taking on the in-house billing. He questioned why are we helping County Hauling.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated they are basing it on this (unknown what she held up).

Councilman Karpiak stated he spoke with them and they knew how many delinquencies there were when they bid the contract. He stated "So again, we are doing this to help ourselves."

Councilwoman Tiberio replied yes.

Councilman Karpiak stated it is basically helping them. He added when he spoke to County Hauling, he brought up the question of how much are they willing to kick back to get this paid for and the answer was none. He stated that is kind of dumb and we are \$250,000 in the hole and they replied that if we don't do this, we will be another \$250,000 in the hole. He stated it ended with them wanting to speak with higher ups. Councilman Karpiak stated he has been working on a couple different angles of doing this. He stated one is with the magistrate and one with the sewage department and added they are discussing the legalities of it now. He stated he spoke with Attorney Rich Husband and he has spoken with the solicitor of the sewage municipalities in general and they feel it is a good idea. He stated there is a light at the end of the tunnel there. Councilman Karpiak stated his big thing with this resolution is that it shows up under my department and I didn't do anything with this.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated "For the record, I didn't write the resolution."

Councilman Karpiak questioned how this resolution got to him.

Councilman Tiberio stated we all talked about this.

Councilman Karpiak stated, yes, they talked about it and he stated he wasn't for it.

City Clerk Ohler stated he put it under his name because it is his department.

Councilman Karpiak stated, yes, it is my department, that is correct. He stated his question is to stop collection of a house, you are going to give that address to the guys on the back of a truck and they are going to know to not pick that garbage up? He added they are having a hard time picking that up.

Councilwoman Tiberio did not answer.

Mayor Lincoln stated what he feels will happen, we will allow them to not pick garbage up and every week it will be "well, that house did not pay their bill. So, we investigate and they say they did pay their bill. So now we have more houses being missed, more people complaints coming in and more people calling city hall and cussing out Shelley and Vernon and Tom and messaging me and going off the deep end because we allowed County Hauling to intentionally miss garbage.

Councilman Topper stated he feels they can have a discussion on this on night long, I want to make a motion. He questioned Solicitor Witt if he can make a motion that we table this?

Solicitor Witt answered yes, he can and then there would have to be a second and then a vote.

Councilman Keedy stated Mr. Foley stated they got 20% back for doing their own billing.

Councilman Topper stated his motion to table is not against any efforts made here, it is a path unknown to us making these changes and we are trying to make the right decision and it is a major decision because it will affect the residents for decades to come. He stated they all have questions and need more input on it.

Councilman Topper motioned to table the resolution. Councilman Karpiak seconded the motion.

Councilman Keedy questioned when it would be discussed.

Councilman Topper stated by the next meeting.

Councilman Keedy questioned if they would have an Executive Session at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned if she should continue her investigation into getting parcel numbers, noting this has taken a lot of time.

Councilman Topper replied yes.

The discussion continued.

A vote was taken as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Karpiak Topper and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. Councilwoman Tiberio abstained.

This resolution was tabled.

Resolution: “To establish, set, and assess a \$25.00 fee per account, to be paid by such account holder and as a lienable fee and assessment on such service property, for City administrative costs relating to the collection of delinquent garbage accounts that are identified and provided by City’s garbage collection, removal, and disposal contractor(s) and confirmed as delinquent.”

TOPPER:

Resolution: “To hire Golden Wing Fence to remove and replace fencing at 2nd Ward Playground at a price of \$4,318.00, money to be taken out of Recreation Account line item 450.374.”

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

TIBERIO:

Councilwoman Tiberio announced PennDOT finally gave the City permission to put a RIGHT TURN ONLY sign on Highland going onto 119. She also stated the paving project finished up last week.

Public Works Report

Public Works Leaf and Vacuum Truck schedule

Resolution No. 10-25-2022: “To enter into Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation on a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement on the Crawford Avenue (McCray Robb) Bridge.”

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

Resolution No. 10-26-2022: “To enter into Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation on a Roadway Lighting Maintenance Agreement on the Crawford Avenue (McCray Robb) Bridge.”

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

***Resolution No. 10-27-2022:** “To choose the color of "Blue Angels" Blue for the color of the Bridge beams on the McCray Robb Bridge project.”

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

Resolution No. 10-28-2022: “That this meeting of the City Council does hereby adjourn.”

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