

Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 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 and Topper. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt. Councilwoman Tzan was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Proclamation: Professor Patrick Daughery's Art & History Class

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Luke Dyer, Resident of North Manor being evicted. He stated he was not permitted in the Housing Authority Meeting.

Solicitor Witt replied the Housing Authority is a public entity and therefore their meetings are public. He suggested Mr. Dyer write a letter to the Housing Authority requesting to meet with them and ask how to be able to attend and speak at their meeting. He further noted that the Housing Director cannot discuss personal cases but can discuss regulations of Board Meetings.

Mayor Lincoln stated he wants someone from City Council or City Clerk Ohler to call the Housing Director and find out why Mr. Dyer was not allowed in the meeting. He also noted the public should be permitted at the open meetings to state any issue. Mayor Lincoln ended the discussion with stating the City Clerk will reach out to the Housing Authority Director then to Mr. Dyer. He also stated with legalities, Mr. Dyer will have to seek legal aid.

James Baker, Rocky Mt. Church, requested information on a structure on Popular Street being torn down. He noted the church would like the property for parking.

City Clerk Ohler stated he will give Mr. Baker the Redevelopment Authority's phone number so the church can state their interest in the property.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by City Treasurer Marilyn Weaver.

Treasurer Weaver stated 14 businesses did not get their business license.

Mayor Lincoln asked Solicitor Witt what the City can do to the businesses that did not pay for their license.

Solicitor Witt stated they should be cited.

Code Officer Currey explained some of those businesses do not have store fronts, therefore are difficult to "track down." He also noted he has to inspect a few of those businesses next week and will inform them they must pay for their license. Further, Currey stated some of the businesses are questionable as to whether they are in business or not. He added he will check the businesses out next week.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Presented by City Controller Bruce Witt

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chamber of Commerce, street closure request

Resolution No. 11-1-2019: "To close North Arch Street, in front of City Hall, on November 30, 2019 from 4 PM until 6 PM for Light UP Night activities."

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

Mayor Lincoln announced this will be a big day in the City with light-up night. He added the Falcon Band will play in front of City Hall at 5 PM with the Chamber passing out popcorn and light-up is at 6 PM. Mayor Lincoln put out a request for residents to volunteer in the City.

Dr. Jacobyansky then spoke (under Public Comment). He stated he would like to place benches at Austin Field at his own personal cost. Council agreed to the idea. Dr. Jacobyansky then requested Council find a solution to the restrooms at Yough Park in time for the Polar Bear plunge.

Mayor Lincoln and City Clerk Ohler explained there are now space heaters in the restrooms as a temporary fix and they are seeking a long-term solution.

Dr. Jacobyansky then suggested pursuing a new WELCOME TO CONNELLSVILLE sign on 119 coming into Connellsville.

Councilman Topper announced that Johnny Tremba took the current photo and is looking to put a new photo up. He added the Chamber is in charge of the sign.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 11-2-2019: "To approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 11-3-2019: "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, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report

Chief Hammerle announced anyone who would like to put a camera in the business or resident, it would be helpful for the Police Department and a deterrent to criminals.

Proclamation: CAHS Band Recognition

Mayor Lincoln announced the Planning Commission is looking for members and to please submit a letter to the City.

Resolution No. 11-4-2019: "To appoint Randy Strickler as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board; three-year term to run until January 1, 2022."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Randy Strickler for volunteering again. He added he was on the Planning Commission for 12 years and is very busy.

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

Resolution No. 11-5-2019: "To adopt Bill No. 4 of 2019: A resolution of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, approving the transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. ~~11450~~ to the City of Connellsville from Dunbar Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania."

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

Resolution No. 11-6-2019: "To adopt Bill No. 5 of 2019: An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, approving the vacation of a portion of South Sixth Street located in the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette."

Solicitor Witt announced that City Council did hold a public hearing on that ordinance last month.

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

Resolution No. 11-7-2019: "To reappoint Ethan Keedy to the Carnegie Free Library Board; term to expire December 31, 2023."

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

Resolution No. 11-8-2019: "To appoint Melissa Tzan to the Carnegie Free Library Board; term to expire December 31, 2023."

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

Resolution No. 11-9-2019: "To permit Congressman Guy Reschenthaler's staff use of Council Chambers the third Tuesday of each month during normal business hours to assist local residents with possible issues."

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

REMINDERS:

City Hall offices will be closed November 28th, 29th and December 25th and close at 12 Noon on December 24th

November 22nd, Highlands Hospital Blood Drive, 1PM - 5:30 PM, Cafeteria (basement)

November 23rd, Gobble Until You Wobble, Dessert Auction, Somerset Train Station, 3PM - 6 PM, \$10 tickets at the Chamber

November 30th, Gingerbread House deadline, build one by yourself or in a group, free to enter, deliver house to Somerset Train Station December 5th or 6th between 9 AM - 4 PM, They will be on display on December 7th, Winners displayed December 9th through 13th. Contact downtownconnellsville@zoominternet.net for information

November 24th, Wesley Church's Thanksgiving Choir at 6 PM

November 30th, Light Up Night and Small Business Saturday

November 28th, Thanksgiving Dinner, Sr. Center, 100 East Fayette Street, 11 AM-1 PM, For rides or meals delivered call 724-628-0700 by 3 PM on November 27th. Monetary donations are welcome.

November 29th, Appalachian Creativity Center, Ceramic Painting Class, 6:30PM-8PM

December 7th, Connellsville Christmas throughout the City. Visit: www.DowntownConnellsville.org for events, details and map

December 7th, Breakfast with Santa at Murphy Hall, 8 AM - 10 AM, Adult \$12, Age 10 and under is \$8, RSVP, 724-603-2093

December 7th, Christmas Parade at 11 AM - Lineup and parade will start at Murphy Hall and end at Somerset Trust Co. Historic Train Station where Santa will hand out treat bags to children and the elves will have cookies and hot chocolate to share. Walmart is sponsoring pictures with Santa

December 11th, judging for "Believe in Connellsville" businesses decorating contest. Businesses can register: 724-628-3639

December 14th, Wreaths Across America, CAHS Patriots

December 14th & 15th, 7:30 PM, Faith Bible Church, 425 South Arch Street, Living Christmas Tree Performance, Free event - donations welcome

December 21st, Appalachian Creativity Center, Reindeer Ceramics, 10AM-Noon, \$40

KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy thanked the Department Heads for staying on track and within their budgets. He also thanked City Clerk Ohler noting he is the one in QuickBooks each day keeping up with the budget.

Resolution No. 11-10-2019: "To introduce Bill No. 6 of 2019: An ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the salaries payable by the City of Connellsville for the various positions enumerated herein for the fiscal year 2020, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith."

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

Resolution No. 11-11-2019: "To introduce Bill No. 7 of 2019: An ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate and Residence Tax Rate for all City purposes for the fiscal year 2020, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith."

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

Resolution No. 11-12-2019: "To introduce Bill No. 8 of 2019: An ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, showing the estimated receipts, expenditures and liabilities of every kind of all the funds for fiscal year 2020 with the balance of unexpended appropriations as the basis for fixing the levy and tax rate for said fiscal year appropriating the various amounts shown as proposed expenditures herein for the expenses of the City for

said fiscal year from the revenue available for said fiscal year for the departments, bureaus and specific purposes set forth herein, and the repealing of all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith."

Councilman Topper thanked New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department for their service and saving the City money. He stated that New Haven took over the fire department without asking twice. He further stated there was 4 paid men and one truck before New Haven Hose took over. Councilman Topper stated New Haven Hose has saved the City over \$40,000. He also thanked the Carnegie Free Library and workers to taking a lower salary.

Councilman Karpiak thanked the tax payers noting they are paying their taxes. He added he is glad to see pride back in the City.

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

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak stated Public Works is picking up leaves and asked residents to recycle since the City gets grant monies because of that. He then reminded residents that during winter, if it snows on an odd day of the week, park on the odd side of the road and if it snows on an even day of the week, park on the even side of the road.

TZAN:

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Mayor Lincoln announced due to the Recreation Board's fundraising, all the roofs at Yough Park have been replaced. He also stated the Police Station is being repainted and new floors put in thanks to the investment account.

Resolution No. 11-13-2019: "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

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