

Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
APRIL 21, 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:

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mayor Lincoln stated people are asking about the extension of the tax deadline. He added the governor stated there will be no penalties if they are paid by December 31, 2020, however, Solicitor Witt noted City Council must vote on that. Mayor Lincoln suggested Council discuss this first.

Treasurer Weaver suggested it be discussed as well, noting if residents can wait to pay in December, they may do that and the City needs the money now.

Solicitor Witt noted Council can extend the discount period and/or the penalty period by passing a resolution by May 20, 2020.

Mayor Lincoln stated Council will take the next month to look at everything and then decide.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 4-1-2020: "To approve the minutes from the March 31, 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. 4-2-2020: "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

Mayor Lincoln asked Chief Hammerle and City Council what their thoughts are if fishing at the Yough River Park would be allowed at this time. He noted this was requested by Braddock Fishing Club, who stock the river.

Chief Hammerle stated as long as people are not congregating in large groups and keeping their distance from each other, it should be fine.

Councilman Karpiak stated he is in favor of allowing fishing there with use of social distancing. All of City Council agreed.

Mayor Lincoln stated the City will allow fishing at Yough Park as long as residence use social distancing. He further instructed residents to throw all trash into the provided garbage cans.

Resolution No. 4-3-2020: "To adopt the amendment to the Emergency Declaration Citizen Participation Process:

The amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan is the following:

Declaration of an Emergency:

When a Declaration of an Emergency has been ordered by the President of the United States, or the Governor of Pennsylvania, the City of Connellsville will follow the following process concerning public hearings and public display of plans.

-If the City is unable to hold open public hearings in person, the City will be allowed to instead hold virtual public hearings through conference calls or an online video conference call platforms as long as the public is able to provide public comments during the virtual public hearing or within 5 days of the meeting.

-If the City is not able to publicly place the plans on public display at the locations referenced in the Citizen Participation Plan, the City will put the plans on the City's website (<http://www.connellsville.us/>) and will also email copies of the plans to any person who will request a copy of the plans via email upon request.

-If the City Council is unable to conduct an open public forum type meeting, the City then can approve the plans at a City Council meeting through an on-line virtual City Council meeting, if an in-person Council meetings are not happening because of the Emergency.

All other sections of the Citizen Participation Plan will not be amended at this time, and shall remain in full force and effect."

Solicitor Witt noted the Participation Plan is required for the CDBG Funding and specifies the public is involved in various hearings. He added the Federal and State Governments wants municipalities to amend their plans so it does not have to be an in-person meeting. Solicitor Witt further added the City does not have to have a three in-person quorum.

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.

REMINDER:

2020 Census - Responding to the census affects the amount of funding our community receives. Data from the Census will ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.

To fill out on-line: 2020census.gov or call: 844-330-2020, 7 am to 2 am.

Mayor Lincoln announced Dave's Print Shop is doing a "Connellsville Strong" T-Shirt fundraiser to support small business owners in town. He added they raised \$2,000 so far and you can go to Dave's Print Shop on Facebook to contact them.

Mayor Lincoln announced Highland's Hospital has a "Front Line Fund". He added Councilman Keedy gave a generous donation of \$500. Mayor Lincoln stated donations can be made through their Facebook page.

Mayor Lincoln then announced the Geranium Festival has been canceled and they have to sell 4,000 Geraniums. He challenged the community to help buy the flowers. He added they are \$2.50 per flower or 15 for \$35. Mayor Lincoln stated payments can be mailed to Linda Galardi, 512 East Green Street, Connellsville and checks are payable to "Connellsville Garden Club." He added distribution of the flowers is May 23rd, 9:30 AM until noon at the Public Works Garage. He stated there will be a pre-paid line and a line for those purchasing that day. He added the Chamber of Commerce has a Facebook post with all the information.

Mayor Lincoln shared Rep. Ryan Warner's information concerning the deadline to register for the Primary Election being May 18, 2020 with the election on June 2, 2020. He also added on-line car sales begins next week. Construction, he announced, will begin on May 8, 2020. Mayor Lincoln noted the Unemployment Application can be found at UC.PA.Gov. He also asked residents to support the local dairy farmers.

KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy thanked the Tax Office for getting the daily deposits in the bank adding the financial end of the City is doing well.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak stated he wants the Public Works employees to avoid large crowds as much as possible. He noted that if anyone needs to talk with them, the phone is still working or they can call him.

Mayor Lincoln stated there is a link on the City's website to report potholes.

TZAN:

Resolution No. 4-4-2020: "To hire the following summer workers for the Public Works Department, beginning rate of \$8 per hour and a maximum of 35 hours per week for the summer season, such cost to be taken from line item 430-145: Kyle Trout, Kaden Trout and Seth Kuhns."

Mayor Lincoln announced all playground equipment will be sanitized and cleaned before parks are open.

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

Councilman Topper thanked the community for supporting New Haven Hose since they cannot have fundraisers right now.

Mayor Lincoln added that it is building permit season. He noted residents can get on the City's website at Connellsville.US and click the building permit tab for the application.

Mayor Lincoln reminded residents that this evening at the Dairy Queen there is a New Haven Hose Fundraiser in which the Dairy Queen will be donating a portion of sales to New Haven Hose.

Mayor Lincoln announced May 9, 2020 will be Clean-up Day in the City and residents are to put out their items at the curbside the evening of May 8, 2020. He also asked everyone to not destroy property while going through neighbor's items.

Mayor Lincoln reminded residents that garbage and recycling must be at the curb and cardboard must be in a bag or it will not be taken by County Hauling.

City Clerk Ohler announced the Connellsville Municipal Authority's Project is going to start. He stated the Crawford Avenue crossing will be done at night. Ohler stated they are looking at completing Fairview to Apple at night due to the bank and Post Office being busy during the day. Ohler asked Solicitor Witt if the City needs to vote on a variance to the Sound Ordinance.

Solicitor Witt stated Council would need to approve a variance for that specific project.

Mayor Lincoln asked if they can get their cuts done during the day to minimize the sound.

Ohler stated he will meet with them on Thursday and have more details then.

Resolution No. 4-5-2020: "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.