

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Pastor Matt Goldsberry led invocation

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lee Winterhalter, Opioid prevention discussion.

Rev. Matt Goldsberry, Thanked Councilman Bob Topper for his work on the new Quality of Life Ordinance and having Gibson Terrace area cleaned up.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Fayette County Housing Authority and Fayette County Commissioner for supporting the new housing with homes in that area.

Rev. Matt Goldsberry invited City Council to the church on a Thursday evening around 7 PM to see them make a difference in the lives of children in the city.

Dr. Frank Jacobyansky, President of the Recreation Board. He announced they raised over \$30,000 this year for the parks. He added they have two large projects they would like to pursue at the parks: one being replace the stage at Yough Park or upgrade it and putting in more parking at East Park.

Mayor Lincoln replied that he doesn't support putting money into a stage that is in good shape.

Dr. Jacobyansky explained that there are seven spaces to park at East Park. He added it is a beautiful park and will be utilized more often now. He also noted the need for handicapped parking and easier access to carry items to the pavilions and explained that he and Jason Bandimer measured and found a way to add 25 parking spaces. Dr. Jacobyansky questioned how the Recreation Board can go about this project and asked City Council for permission to pursue it. He added Kerri Bell, the City's Engineer, has agreed to assist with the design. He then asked how the Recreation Board can go about pursuing this project and get it done.

Councilman Karpiak addressed the use of the Public Works employees to work on the parking at East Park. He stated the city does not have the equipment to complete that project and there is not enough man-power to assist. He added that department has one- and two-man crews. Councilman Karpiak suggest the Recreation Board get bids on that project.

Dr. Jacobyanski questioned who is responsible for getting bids for this project.

City Clerk Ohler stated that he will do it.

Mayor Lincoln explained to Dr. Jacobyanski that the Recreation Board would bring the project to Councilwoman Tzan and she would bring it before City Council. He also added the people need to use the 75 parking spaces that East Park has down there and explained how to make that easier. He further added the 25 spaces that the Recreation Board would like to add would be great for handicap parking.

Stu Adams discussed Hill Grove Cemetery. He stated he has taken upon himself to cut the grass and weed eating at the cemetery. He showed City Council a picture of his vision for the cemetery. He noted the two young men that were getting paid by Fink Funeral Home to cut the grass has now given him permission to take over the very small funding account which will expire this year. Mr. Adams stated he wants to bring life back to that old cemetery by creating a pay-pal account so people can fund the "existing" fund. He notified council there is over 100 tombstones overturned. He added he wants to make a difference and that he will be reaching out to the churches and boy scouts and volunteers. He noted it is an eyesore but something fantastic can be done. He stated the he can cut some trees down but would like the city to carry them away. He stated he will be talking with Senator Stephano and other to explore grants. He clarified that he does not want to lay a burden on the city and he realizes that part of the cemetery is in the township. He stated that he is seeking corporate funding from family and friends and corporates from his employer. He stated Mr. Heath from Finks Funeral Home is allowing him charge of what little money is left to care for the cemetery. He stated he will be installing two American Flags this week.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Mr. Adams for his work and goals with the cemetery. He stressed the need for a "Board" that is not part of the city, to take over that cemetery. He also added Mr. Adams would be great to take that charge for a new board. Mayor Lincoln stated there are people interested to be on a board for the cemetery. Mayor Lincoln asked Councilman Karpiak if Superior Mulch takes trees.

Councilman Karpiak stated they do not take trees depending on what tree it is.

Mr. Adams replied they are non-pine so they are clean to burn in the house. He stated he is limited in his mobility but can drop the tree but cannot move it. He added it is great for heating and firewood.

Mayor Lincoln stated a few ideas the city has and noted Mr. Adams will be the point of contact on the cemetery for sure. He requested Mr. Adams create a Facebook Page for the cemetery.

They discussed financial ideas and ways to obtain funding for the cemetery.

Mayor Lincoln requested Mr. Adams keep in contact with Vernon Ohler, City Clerk.

James Hannis discussed Nelson Bus Lines. He stated he would like to see a change in parking at the satellite center at Highlands Hospital. He stated the issue is on Gibson at the curb.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this could go through the Traffic Committee.

City Clerk Ohler stated yes, it would be a Traffic Committee request.

Solicitor Witt explained it would go through the Traffic Committee who would bring it to City Council to vote on.

Mayor Lincoln requested Chief Hammerle take a look at the situation tomorrow.

Mr. Hannis spoke on another note regarding Judge Haggerty's program. He stated the program is people having to work to pay off their fines.

Mayor Lincoln stated he knows the program and Judge Haggerty has a sign-up list. He stated that people sign up and then the day of work, not everyone who signs up actually show up.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Weaver absent.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Controller Witt absent.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 9-1-2021: "To approve the minutes from the August 17, 2021, 2021 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 9-2-2021: "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 Tzan, Karpiak and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 9-3-2021: "To close North 7th Street, on Fridays and Saturdays from 7 PM to 11 PM beginning Friday, September 24, 2021 and continuing until Saturday, October 30, 2021; further to close the street on Sunday, October 31, 2021, for the Crawford School of Terror; pending review and approval from the Police Chief and Fire Chief."

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

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Proclamation, Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education Month

Police Department Report given by Chief Hammerle

Chief Hammerle notified City Council of the calls taken in South Connellsville territory.

Mayor Lincoln discussed the hiring of two new police officers and thanked the Civil Service Board, noting that is who the city goes through to hire officers. He also thanked Chief Hammerle for his work and the stress he went through putting everything together to hire two new officers.

Hammerle stated he can retain the seventeen applicants that applied for a period of two years. He further added there are possible retirements upcoming and there are a lot of good people to choose from on this list.

Resolution No. 9-9-2021: “To hire Ryan Layton as a patrolman for the Connellsville Police Department starting October 18, 2021 at a salary reflected by the collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Connellsville Police Officers Association; Funds will be taken out of line item 410.142.”

Mayor Lincoln noted Ryan Layton has been a long-time member of New Haven Hose and is the City’s EMA Coordinator.

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

Resolution No. 9-8-2021: “To hire Ryan Francis as a patrolman for the Connellsville Police Department starting October 18, 2021 at a salary reflected by the collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Connellsville Police Officers Association; Funds will be taken out of line item 410.142.”

Mayor Lincoln added Ryan Francis has a military background.

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

Mayor Lincoln questioned Chief Hammerle if the new K9 vehicle from the County is ready.

Chief Hammerle answered they are still waiting for parts to come in for the vehicle.

Resolution No. 9-4-2021: “To authorize the City Clerk permission to file grant applications to GO Laurel Highlands on behalf of the city for the following projects: The Visitors Center, Yough Park Improvements and 2022 Festivals.”

Mayor Lincoln stated the city is applying for money to pay for the staffing at the Visitors Center and to fix the bathroom issues at Yough Park. He thanked City Clerk, Vernon Ohler for putting the grant together.

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

Resolution No. 9-5-2021: "To grant permission for the businesses on the 600 block of West Crawford Avenue to hold a sidewalk event on Saturday October 23rd from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm."

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

Resolution No. 9-6-2021: "To grant permission to the City Clerk for filing a DEP 902 Recycling Grant on behalf of the City of Connellsville."

Mayor Lincoln questioned Clerk Ohler what is being applied for with this grant.

Ohler answer larger recycling bins.

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

Resolution No. 9-7-2021: "To grant Life's Work of Western PA permission for 20 hours of workplace job training for Matthew J. Seighman at City Hall. All Liability and supervision to be provided by Life's Work."

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

REMINDERS:

Chamber's Community Yard Sale, September 25th, 724-628-5500 to sign-up/questions

Farmers Markets, October 2nd, 9 AM – 2 PM, by City Hall

Spaghetti Dinner for Veterans Memorial Fund, October 2nd, 2 PM – 6 PM, \$8/adults and \$4/Age 8 and under, American Legion Post 301, call 724-628-1867 for information. Mayor Lincoln thanked them for raising money for the Memorial. He added they will have chance auction baskets and going all out to help. He added they are half way to meeting the funds needed for the Memorial. He also added if anyone would like to donate to mail their check to 415 Penn Street payable to the Festival Association.

Fall garbage pick-up day, October 2nd. Mayor Lincoln reminded residents to not put their garbage out until the evening before pick-up. He further added no TVs or chemicals, building materials, refrigerators unless tagged the freon has been removed and no tires.

Tangled Up in Brew, 10th Anniversary, October 2nd. Mayor Lincoln stated this is a main fundraiser for the city parks. He added that if you are 21 or older, this is a fun night in the city.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program sign-ups, Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 12 PM- 5 PM, Connellsville Community Center, call Maddy at 724-626-1120 ex 102 for information

New Haven Hose's Fall Festival, October 15th 4 PM - 10PM, 16th 11 AM - 10 PM and 17th 11 AM - 4 PM

Connellsville Police Officers' Association's 1st Annual 5K Race, October 23rd, Registration at 9 AM, Race at 10 AM, held at Yough Park, \$30 day of event

New Haven Hose's Halloween Parade, October 26th, 7 PM

Trick or Treat, October 31st, 6 PM – 8 PM. Mayor Lincoln added other municipalities are having it the same time.

Christian Church, 212 S. Pittsburgh Street, Free Community Lunch every Monday beginning 11:30 AM until 1 PM, 724-628-3802 for information

Mayor Lincoln stated the city met with Commissioner Dunn. He explained that he wants to do a Veterans Suicide Awareness event in the city at Falcon Stadium. He added the first will be here and then rotate around the areas. Mayor Lincoln stated they are waiting for approval from the school district and then they will put it all together.

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 9-10-2021: "To advertise and schedule the Budget Meetings for the following dates and times: October 11th, 13th, 25th and 28th and November 1st, 2021 at 6 PM; Meetings to be held in City Council Chambers, City Hall."

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

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak stated leaf pickup is coming up. He stressed to rake the leaves to the road or put them in bags.

Resolution No. 9-11-2021: “To accept the bid of \$2,050.00 from Brooke Shoffner on Municibid for the selling of the 2001 Johnston 605 Street Sweeper.”

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

Resolution No. 9-12-2021: “To permit the City Clerk to sign all necessary documents for the sale of the 2001 Johnston 605 Street Sweeper.”

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

Resolution No. 9-13-2021: To adopt Bill No. 3 of 2021, Ordinance No. 1555, **AN ORDINANCE REGULATING MOTOR VEHICLES FROM EXITING ONTO SAID STREETS AND TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE BELOW LISTED STREETS FINES AND PENALTIES ALLOWED BY THE MOTOR VEHICLE CODE.”**

Chief Hammerle explained when new laws come out, they issue written warnings until the community gets used to what is going on. He added they will issue citations about a month later.

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

TZAN:

Resolution No. 9-14-2021: “WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolution No. 04-13-2021, adopted April 20, 2021, the City of Connellsville declared its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual adopted December 16, 2008 and amended on March 28, 2016, and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, each individual act of disposition shall be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in accordance with the above cited Municipal Records Manual, hereby authorizes the disposition of the following public records attached hereto”

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

Resolution No. 9-15-2021: “To allow General Braddock's Fish Club permission to have alcohol at its October 24, 2021 member event at Yough Park.”

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

Mayor Lincoln stated there are less than 200 tickets left for Tangled Up in Brew.

Councilwoman Tzan discussed the Crochet Tournament and noted they purchased a tent for \$700 and then received a \$1,000 donation for the Recreation Board.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Mayor Lincoln discussed a fire on Johnson Lane and stressed to citizens to dial 911.

Resolution No. 9-16-2021: “To adopt Bill No. 4 of 2021, Ordinance No. 1556, **An Ordinance Adopting the Quality of Life and Violations Ticket Process in the City of Connellsville** with the purpose of enforcing lack of maintenance of properties, littering, improper storage of trash and rubbish, storage of inoperable/non-registered vehicles, vendor operations without permits and accumulation of snow and ice are costly problems that contribute to the deterioration of property values and general disorder in a community. These problems degrade the physical appearance of the city, which reduces business and tax revenue inhibiting economic development. The quality of life and community pride of the citizens of the City of Connellsville are negatively impacted by the occurrences and existence of these activities. Recognizing these are community problems, the purpose of this Part is to promote the health, safety and general welfare of our community by helping to create a clean environment for the citizens of the City of Connellsville.”

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

Mayor Lincoln announced Evans Day Camp, 5K Walk/Run for Autism, September 25th on Sheepskin Trail, Pavilion #4, 9 PM, proceeds will go to Highlands Hospital Center for Autism

Resolution No. 9-17-2021: “That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn.”

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