

**Connellsville City Council MINUTES  
DECEMBER 20, 2022**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**OATHS:**

**Oath:** Connor Tibbe, Patrolman

**Resolution No. 12-1-2022:** "To promote James Garlick to the rank of Corporal effective January 1, 2023 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, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 12-2-2022:** "To promote Samuel Beucher to the rank of Corporal effective January 1, 2023 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, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Oaths:** James Garlick, Corporal and Samuel Beucher, Corporal

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Toni Colland, Diversity Board, Check presentation for the poster contest. She announced the two winners: Amanda Hoffer and Lea Rockey and presented them with their checks.

Toni Colland then announced Juneteenth will be June 17, 2023 and run from 11 AM until 6 PM. She stated the Pride Festival will be June 10, 2023 and time will be announced.

Frank Jacobansky, President of Recreation Board, stated he hopes by the spring, City Council will look over the bi-laws and allow for amendments and improvements. He noted the annual Polar Bear Plunge will happen again. He then asked if the 12<sup>th</sup> Street grant could be amended because he would like to make a few suggestions and have it amended.

Solicitor Witt stated that if there is money left over, they can go back and request another item.

Jacobansky then asked if Pinnacle Playground was going to be sold.

Mayor Lincoln replied they are looking at making it an inclusion park for kids with disabilities.

#### **CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Weaver reported that the tax monies are not coming in. She also stated she will be sending out a letter to the businesses and that will go out the first of the year. She read the letter and asked for suggestions or changes from city council.

Mayor Lincoln requested they specify what a mechanical device is.

#### **CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

Bill Addis, Controller gave his report and then read New Haven Hose Report.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Paula Johnston, Diversity Board, Request to use Yough Park on June 10, 2023 for Pride in The Park

**Resolution No. 12-3-2022:** "To grant permission to the Diversity and Inclusion Board to use Yough Park on Saturday, June 10, 2023 for their Pride Fest 2023 Event beginning at 9 AM and ending 5 PM; further granting use of the items requested on the Utilization Form."

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

Toni Colland, Diversity Board, Request to use Veteran's Plaza and the East Side Fire Hall on June 17, 2023 for Juneteenth Celebration

**Resolution No. 12-4-2022:** "To grant permission to the Diversity and Inclusion Board to use Veteran's Plaza and the East Side Fire Hall on June 17, 2022 for their Juneteenth Celebration beginning 11 AM until 6 PM; further permitting North Meadow Lane be blocked from 3 PM until 6 PM; further granting use of items listed on the Utilization Form."

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

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 12-5-2022:** “To accept the minutes from the November 15, 2022 City Council Meeting.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-6-2022:** “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, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

## **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln noted the body cameras grant has been funded.

Chief Hammerle noted the City will need to make a phone call to find out if they need to pay for the items first and then get reimbursed.

Councilman Keedy stated the City gets reimbursed.

Mayor Lincoln stated they are waiting for their bullet proof vest reimbursement.

Chief Hammerle added that was around \$6,000 and awarded several months ago. He noted Patty from Guy Reschenthaler’s office had him fill out a form and she will find out where the funds are and get back to him with a time line.

Chief Hammerle then announced they are down two vehicles. He stated one was totaled several months ago and they got the replacement for that car but can’t equip it with emergency equipment because everything is back ordered. He added a second car was hit last week. He noted it is repairable and, in the shop, now.

Chief Hammerle added they are down two officers right now. He noted that one will be replaced on the first of January. He also added they are accepting applications right now and the deadline is Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. He noted so far, there were five applications picked up and three were returned so far. He noted the last time they accepted applications there were twenty-four turned in and they hired five off of that list.

City Council discussed what time and dates to meet in 2023.

**Resolution No. 12-7-2022:** “To appoint Ethan Keedy as City of Connellsville delegate to the Southwest Regional Tax Bureau, Shanea Fuller as alternate and Vernon Ohler as the Second Alternate Delegate; terms to expire January 2024.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-8-2022:** “To schedule the 2023 City Council meetings for 5 PM on January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19, 2023 in City Council Chambers, City Hall.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-9-2022:** “To renew the Sublease Agreement between the City of Connellsville and Connellsville Twp, for continued use of the City's compost site.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Supervisor Minor for his work on Zack Connell’s Grave Grant that the County awarded to the City. He added it was for the improvements to the grave site.

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

**Resolution No. 12-10-2022:** “To reappoint Paul Whipkey to the Shade Tree Commission; term to expire January 2028.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Mr. Whipkey for continuing to serve on the Shade Tree Commission and noted the Council has a hard time getting people to serve on it.

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

Mayor Lincoln stated if anyone would like to serve on the Shade Tree Commission, please let us know.

**Resolution No. 12-11-2022:** “To reappoint Mary Kay Dunaway to the Connellsville Housing Authority; term to expire January 2028.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-12-2022:** “To reappoint Shawn Pilla to the Connellsville Zoning Board; term to expire January 2028.”

Councilwoman Tiberio explained it pains her to vote no to anyone who volunteers. She added she will have two no’s this evening and both have to do with the new construction on Pittsburgh Street.

Councilman Karpiak stated it is amazing to him that she (Tiberio) could be so against someone for using their own property. He added that is her opinion and she is allowed to have it.

Councilwoman Tiberio replied that it was an ‘iron clad’ ordinance.

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

**Resolution No. 12-13-2022:** “To reappoint Shannon Barker Cuneo to the Connellsville Planning Commission; term to expire January 2027.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-14-2022:** “To reappoint Ted Kovall to the Police Civil Service Board; term to expire January 2027.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-15-2022:** “To reappoint Sharon Rendine to the Connellsville Municipal Authority; term to expire January 2028.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-16-2022:** “To reappoint Pastor James Stafford to the Diversity and Inclusion Board; term to expire January 2028.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-17-2022:** “To reappoint Robert Flockovich to the Redevelopment Authority; term to expire January 2028.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-18-2022:** “To abate and exonerate the city taxes on Parcel ID # 05-09-0022, 511 East Murphy Avenue, in the amount of \$366.63 for the year 2022.”

City Clerk Ohler stated that is the one that burnt down and the neighbors are not happy.

Solicitor Witt stated it was acquired at a repository sale, so the taxes should have been exonerated. He added that the turnaround was fast and that is why council is taking action on it. He noted the County had already exonerated the property and school should as well.

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

**Resolution No. 12-20-2022:** “To extend the agreement with KeyTex Energy as the City's electric supplier for a length of nine months.”

City Clerk Ohler stated they are the third-party supplier. He added they will extend it for nine months at a good great and look into it again.

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

Mayor Lincoln stated he will read a resolution for Emily Richter who owns Youghiogheny Holistic Living. He stated she is creating a small business association called first Fridays. He added January 6<sup>th</sup> will be the first Friday. Mayor Lincoln added that anyone who owns a business and wants to be part of this, they are in. He explained they want to put signs out and use the city's new logo and was going to come to the meeting tonight and ask permission to use it.

Mayor Lincoln read the letter from Emily Richter. He then asked Solicitor Witt if this must be done by resolution.

Solicitor Witt replied yes because it is essentially City property and noted council will want to approve a limited non-exclusive and non-transferable license to use that City logo. He added they will want to have that on the agenda to be approved. He further stated they do not need an agreement just the resolution which would be considered the license. Witt explained if council wants to vote on it this evening, they can motion to amend the agenda this evening, they can add it and vote on it tonight.

Mayor Lincoln motioned to amend the agenda to add for consideration for this First Friday promotion. Councilman Keedy seconded the motion.

City Clerk Ohler took the vote as following: Councilpersons Keedy, Karpiak and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln all voted yes and the motion passed.

Mayor Lincoln read the reminders while Solicitor Witt wrote the resolution.

**Reminders available on the City's website: [connellsville@connellsville.us](mailto:connellsville@connellsville.us)**

City Hall Offices will be closed Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon, Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mayor Lincoln stated he and the City Clerk were discussing closing City Hall at 4 PM next weekend and asked City Council if they would be ok with that.

City Council all agreed to close City Hall at 4 PM Christmas week.

Dave Porterfield's Miniature Christmas Train Display at Somerset Trust Train Station, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> beginning 4 PM until 8 PM

#### **VIDEO CAMERA ENDED**

**Resolution No. 12-19-2022:** "To authorize and approve a limited, non-exclusive, and non-transferable license to the Small Business Association, as requested, for use in the advertising and marketing and promotion of First Friday events; such licensing to continue until revoked in the discretion of the City.

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

#### **KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 12-21-2022:** "To adopt Bill No. 8 of 2022: 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 2023 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."

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

**Resolution No. 12-22-2022:** “To adopt Bill No. 7 of 2022: 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 2023, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-23-2022:** “To adopt Bill No. 6 of 2022: 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 2023, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith.”

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

**KARPIAK:**

Health/Code Officer’s Report

New Haven Hose Report

**VIDEO CAMERA BEGAN**

Trash and Recycling pick-up **will not** be delayed the week of Christmas  
Trash and Recycling pick-up **will not** be delayed the week of New Year’s

Councilman Karpiak wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanked volunteers for all they do in the City.

**TOPPER:** Mayor Lincoln read Councilman Topper’s resolutions.

**Resolution No. 12-24-2022:** “To reappoint Michael Parlak, Sr. to the Connellsville Recreation Board; term to expire January 2028.”

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

**Resolution No. 12-25-2022:** “To extend the lease between the City of Connellsville and the Connellsville Senior Tigers for six months, from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024.”

Mayor Lincoln announced that Patty Pritts from the Senior Center is retiring and wished her well. He added she ran the center very well.

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

**Resolution No. 12-26-2022:** "To pursue the donation of parcel #05-07-0318, 239 South Carnegie Avenue from Anthony A. and Frances Tristani, Sr., pending final agreement, with the City covering all legal and transfer costs. Fees to be taken out of line item, 404.130."

Mayor Lincoln explained this is the property on Wills Road where there was gushing water for three weeks. He announced a PA American Water employee drove by and realized it was a service line and it is now repaired.

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

Solicitor Witt explained this next resolution could be an item for Executive Session if they wish to convene to Executive Session to compare the different proposals they received. He continued that if they do not want to go into session he can continue as he wishes with his motion.

Mayor Lincoln stated there were two offers on the building: \$115,000 and the other \$120,000.

**Resolution No. 12-27-2022:** "To ratify and consent to the sale of the property at 305 South Arch Street, Parcel #05-07-0258, by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Connellsville to CAK Properties, LLC for the amount of \$120,000."

Mayor Lincoln stated he is happy to get \$120,000 out of the building. He thanked Councilman Topper for working with realtors to get bids on the building, Dennis Martin and Paul Bortz from Coldwell Banker for marketing the building and helping to get offers on the building and Jessica Tony the realtor for the building. He also thanked the Municipal Authority for giving the City the building. Mayor Lincoln announced the new owners are from Mirror Mirror Salon.

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

#### **TIBERIO:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 12-28-2022:** “To grant the City Clerk permission to file for a Boating Facility Grant through the PA Fish and Boat Commission for ramp extension, canoe and kayak access, along with ADA fishing accessibility at Yough Park and if approved by the Connellsville Area Historical Society’s property.”

Mayor Lincoln added he hopes the persons who make the decisions on this will see how much is going on in the City with it and look favorably at issuing the city the grant. He stated this would be great for everyone wanting to fish there.

Councilman Karpiak questioned that all is time critical (grant) and being the City is working with the Historical Society, will that change the City’s momentum? He also questioned when the grant is due by.

Councilwoman Tiberio answered by the end of the month so the city has to have an agreement with them.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if the city does have an agreement with them.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated not yet.

Councilman Karpiak replied it should have been done already.

Councilwoman Tiberio answered they are working on it but it didn’t happen. She added if approved, they will cut themselves loose and just do it, our ramp and ADA doc.

Councilman Karpiak questioned what happens if we don’t meet the deadline.

City Clerk Ohler answered “Our grant will be in and the extension.” He stated the one will be like a launch and ours will be the ADA compliant.

Councilwoman Tiberio added the launch on the Historical Society’s property is like an auxiliary launch where if you do not have a permit.

Councilman Karpiak added they will still launch.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated if the Fish and Boat are there and they cite them, then there is nothing we can do about that.

Councilman Karpiak stated they have a kayak ramp at Green lick Dam and it is beautiful, adding he doesn’t know if that is proposed at Yough. He noted if they are not putting something like that in there then I can’t see the sense in doing it. He informed council he would like to see it modeled after that and it is beautiful and easy to get in and out of.

Councilman Karpiak informed council he doesn’t want to have to wait on someone else and then it would in turn mess up the city from getting the grant.

Councilwoman Tiberio added that if the agreement comes through, they will include it, if not, they will just do the city's side and put in for theirs next year. She noted as long as they have the lease of the property, because once they get the money, it has to be available to the public for 25 years.

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

Mayor Lincoln discussed he and the City Clerk are trying to find people to watch the Senior Center for a warming center during Christmas when the single digits are expected.

Mayor Lincoln wished everyone a Merry Christmas and New Year.

**Resolution No. 12-29-2022:** "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, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.