

**Connellsville City Council  
Minutes  
NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

This regular meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:30 PM at City Hall, Connellsville, PA. Attending this meeting was Mayor Lincoln, Council members Karpiak, Geyer, Zolbrod and Ritch. Also attending this meeting was City Clerk Tesauro and Solicitor Witt.

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

Rev. Suzanne Zampella led invocation and prayer

Former City Solicitor Joseph E. Ferens, Jr. passed away Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. He served the City from 2002-2007.

**Reminder of the procedures for public participation during City Council meetings.**

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Judy Keller, Submitted resignation for City Treasurer and Tax Collector for the end of the year.

Elizabeth Caglia, Connellsville Pride and Poem Reading

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 11-1-2014:** "To accept the minutes from the October 21, 2014 City Council Meeting."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Karpiak, Ritch and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-2-2014:** "To waive the 4-day Resolution Rule to allow for items submitted after the 4-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 Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report

Officer Kendi and Corporal Huss for solving a handful of crimes that happened in the City.

Chief Capitos and Captain Shaffer are working together with Senator Kasunic to rename our Crawford Bridge after a fallen Connellsville Police Officer. Dedication ceremony will be November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Connellsville Police Department received a Gold Award from the AAA.

**Resolution No. 11-3-2014: "FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION, 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, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the Pennsylvania Human Act. 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, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or familial status (families with children)."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-4-2014:** "To accept the resignation of Judy A. Keller, City Treasurer/Tax Collector, effective December 31, 2014."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Mrs. Keller for her service to the City and noted she would be terribly missed. Council members each thanked her.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

#### **There is no Resolution No. 11-5-2014**

**Resolution No. 11-6-2014:** "To authorize City Council to send a letter to the Fayette County Housing Authority requesting a donation to the City of Connellsville in lieu of taxes for the services we provide to their property at Gibson Terrace."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-7-2014:** "Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Connellsville as follows:

WHEREAS, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to Communities for activities which will benefit low and moderate income families, aid in the elimination or prevention of slums or urban blight or other urgent community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has invited the City to submit an application in the amount of \$ 288,311 for financial assistance under its Fiscal Year 2014 Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has met all the citizens participation requirements relative to the Community Development Block Grant Program submission; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared a Three Year Plan and Statement of Objectives as required by DCED; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared an application for Financial Assistance under the 2014 Community Development Block Grant Program, said application having been duly reviewed and considered by the Council of the City of Connellsville.

1. That the Community Development Block Grant Program Application dated November 2014 is hereby in all respects approved. The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of said program and application with the minutes of this meeting.
2. That it is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of community development activities with Federal/State financial assistance under Title I, including those under Title VI relating to the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, creed, or national origin and other implementation of the program.
3. That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, is authorized to file an Application for Financial Assistance to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program and act as the authorized representative for the City.
4. That the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council is hereby authorized to provide such assurance and/or certification as may be required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and any supplemental or revised data which DCED may request in connection with its review of the application and including any revisions necessary to bring the application into conformity with DCED's final grant for the City."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**REMINDERS:**

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Light up Night in the City of Connellsville

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christmas Parade, held by New Haven Hose

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christmas at Yough Park, 12 PM – 1 PM

City Hall will be closed on November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving

December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, Connellsville Christmas, [downtownconnellsville.org](http://downtownconnellsville.org) for information

December 24<sup>th</sup> City Hal will close at 1 PM and closed Christmas Day

Little League will have a Town Hall Meeting here at 7 PM on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Living Christmas Tree will be on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Faith Bible Church

Dedication of Crawford Bridge

Budget Meeting will be November 24, 2014 at 5 PM at City Hall

**GEYER:**

Stated Monday's Budget Meeting is to introduce the budget

Council was able to review a Land Use Plan for the new Hotel

**Resolution No. 11-8-2014:** "To authorize payment to Runner's High in the amount of \$270.00 for equipment rental, mileage, fee and services as per attached invoice #14-155."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-9-2014:** "To authorize payment to McClure & Wolf, LLP in the amount of \$2,003.20 for Accounting and Consulting Services in excess of Audit Scope."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Sent out condolences to the family of Joe Ferens

Mayor Lincoln added another Reminder:

City Church is hosting the Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day at the Senior Center and are in need of food and volunteers, call Jessica at 724-628-0700

**KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

There will be odd and even days for snowplowing on the south side

**Resolution No. 11-10-2014:** "To open bids for the following equipment: 1994 Ford F600 Dump Truck with Snow Plow and Salt Spreader, 1991 Leaf Vacuum Collection System with collection box, 2004 John Deere X585 Mower with 60" deck, 1999 John Deere Walk Behind Mower/54" Deck."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Bids received were:

Charles Hampshire - \$1,010.00 on 1994 F600 Dump Truck with Snow Plow, \$310.00 on 2004 John Deere X585 Mower and \$210.00 on 1999 John Deere mower

Gaudino Brothers - \$138.00 on 2004 John Deere X585 mower, \$62.00 on 1999 John Deere mower

Robert Leiberger Jr. - \$535 on 2004 John Deere X585 mower

Green Ridge - \$750 on 1999 John Deere mower

**Resolution No. 11-11-2014:** "To **reject all bids** for the 1994 Ford F600 Dump Truck with Snow Plow and Salt Spreader, sold as is, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

There were no bids for the leaf vacuum.

**Resolution No. 11-12-2014:** "To accept the bid of Robert Leiberger Jr. for the 2004 John Deere X585 Mower with 60" deck, sold as is, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_535\_\_\_\_\_."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-13-2014:** "To accept the bid of Green Ridge for the 1999 John Deere Walk Behind Mower / 54" Deck, sold as is, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_750\_\_\_\_\_."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln announced there will be a Christmas decorating contest. Blaine Brooks is donating the signs that will be put in. December 12<sup>th</sup> will be the cut off to sign-up your home or business. He noted to sign-up you must email or call.

**RITCH:**

Noted four applicants for custodian were interviewed but with the budget, the resolution to hire is on hold

**ZOLBROD:**

Fire Department Report  
Health/Code Officer Report  
New Haven Hose Report

Tom Currey, Health/Code/Zoning Officer was called to the podium to explain what is going on with the demolition in town. He stated the demolition permit is from Fayette County and is good

for one year. He noted there is a hole in the sidewalk that is about a foot and a half deep but will be filled by the parade.

**Resolution No. 11-14-2014:** “To execute the Board of Health’s order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 109 Trader Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425, and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition, funds taken from the Community Development Block Grant Monies.”

Tom Currey stated these properties have been unfit for human habitation for years.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-15-2014:** “To execute the Board of Health’s order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 114 Gallatin Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425, and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition, funds taken from Community Development Block Grant Monies.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-16-2014:** “To execute the Board of Health’s order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 256 East Fairview Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425, and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition, funds taken from Community Development Block Grant Monies.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-17-2014:** “To accept the resignation of Susan Joy Lewis from the Board of Health, effective immediately.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Susan Lewis for her service and noted she is a big part of the community showing up at many events.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-18-2014:** “To appoint Dr. James McIntire to the Board of Health effective immediately, term to expire the first Monday of 2018.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 11-19-2014:** “To introduce Bill No. 6, Ordinance No.1514: An Ordinance of the City of Connellsville adopting the 2015 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code,

regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary, and for occupation and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures in the City of Connellsville; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; providing penalties for the violation thereof and repealing Ordinance No. 1483 of the City of Connellsville and all other ordinances or parts of laws in conflict therewith.”

Karpiak questioned what has changed with the IPM Code.

Currey answered the City will save a lot of money on postage. He noted that we now have to send a Certified Letter as the first formal notice of violation. Currey stated if the City adopts this ordinance, he will be able to post a letter on their property and not spend postage on Certified Mail.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**CITY TREASURER KELLER’S REPORT:**

**CITY CONTROLLER BROOKS REPORT:**

**Resolution No. 11-20-2014:** “That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.