

Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
MARCH 31, 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: Led by Rev. Suzanne Zampella

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chamber of Commerce, Savor the Avenue, August 6, 2020, Street closure request

Resolution No. 3-1-2020: "To close Crawford Avenue, between Arch and Pittsburgh Streets, on Thursday, August 6, 2020 between 7 AM and 11 PM, for Savor the Avenue; pending review and approval of Police Chief, Fire Chief and Penn DOT."

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.

Pastor Don Smith, National Day of Prayer request

Resolution No. 3-2-2020: "To permit Connellsville Area Ministerial Association to use Veteran's Plaza on May 7, 2020 at 7 PM; further authorizing North Arch Street from West Apple to Crawford Avenue be blocked during this time; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief; pending the lifting of all applicable Emergency Declarations."

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.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 3-3-2020: "To approve the minutes from the February 18, 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. 3-4-2020: "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 to explain what protocols are in place to keep the Police Department safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic and shut-down. Chief Hammerle explained he advised his department to answer non-emergency calls by telephone. He added before each shift they must wipe and clean out the vehicles and work areas in the station. He further thanked the community for supplying them with the needed items to keep them safe from the virus. Chief Hammerle noted they have received the M95 masks which they carry in their duty bag for emergencies and they are picking up full face masks from Highland Hospital. He told Council that the Police Department is keeping their distance from the public and not getting too close in person. He further explained 911 will tell the callers to meet the police outside so they do not have to go in the residence home. Chief Hammerle asked that people refrain from large groups in the City and in the parks during the pandemic.

Mayor Lincoln asked residents to call the Police Station at 724-628-2020 ext. 110 with non-emergency calls so 911 is free for emergencies.

Proclamation, YMCA's 20th Anniversary

Proclamation, Dominic Prestipino, Eagle Scout

Mayor Lincoln stated he knows Dominic and he is a community minded young adult and an amazing track runner. He added Dominic received a scholarship to attend college this fall because of track. Mayor Lincoln stated Dominic volunteers all over and holds a job as well. He noted he is a good kid and feels bad for him and the students not being able to participate in their groups and clubs.

Resolution No. 3-5-2020: "To approve the Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, retroactive to March 17, 2020 and extend the Emergency Declaration indefinitely."

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 announced the April meeting will likely be closed to the public due to the President extending the social distancing until April 30th.

Resolution No. 3-6-2020: "To approve the forms and compliance with the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act" for extended sick or family medical leave (FMLA) use for city employees for the remainder of 2020."

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.

Solicitor Witt stated this is the Federal Government or certain employers are providing additional paid sick leave and additional emergency family medical leave. He added a form was created to follow all the rules on this.

Resolution No. 3-7-2020: "To adopt Bill No. 1 of 2020, "AN ORDINANCE OF CONNELLSVILLE CITY, FAYETTE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELECTING TO AMEND ITS NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW; AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW AS AMENDED AND AS APPLICABLE TO MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES. IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY CONNELLSVILLE CITY, FAYETTE COUNTY, AS FOLLOWS."

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.

City Clerk Ohler explained this is done every 6-8 years for the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund and nothing changed.

Resolution No. 3-8-2020: "To place out for bid a 2013 Chevy Impala police cruiser. Vehicle will be sold in as is condition. All bids must be accompanied by a Certified Check for 10% of the bid price. Bids will be accepted up until 4 PM on May 18, 2020, at City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425."

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. 3-9-2020: "To donate \$80 to New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department for two American Flags to be displayed at City Hall on eight holidays. Money to be taken from line item 409.266."

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. 3-10-2020: "To temporarily relieve Mid Penn from City of Connellsville Ordinance #1449, as amended, and allow a "billboard" to be erected on the property of 709 Blackstone Road, Connellsville, PA 15425, until completion of project."

Councilman Topper stated the location is the new Fayette EMS building on Blackstone Road.

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 stated there are no reminders on this month due to them being canceled since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. He added he is hopeful the Geranium Festival will still be held on May 24th.

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 3-11-2020: "To close the following accounts at Somerset Trust Company: Recreation Checking and Senior Center Checking."

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.

Councilman Keedy stated they feel it is best to close the accounts at Somerset Trust and open them at Scottdale Bank and Trust to spread them out.

Resolution No. 3-12-2020: "To open the following accounts at Scottdale Bank and Trust: Recreation Checking and Senior Center Checking and to approve the City Treasurer, City Controller and the Director of Accounts and Finance as authorized signatories on such accounts."

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. 3-13-2020: "To abate and exonerate the City Treasurer from collecting 2020 Real Estate Taxes on City owned properties, which shall be exempt from 2020 City Real Estate Taxes, known and located as follows: Connellsville Community Center, lots 15, 23 and 31, 201 East Fairview Avenue, \$333.59 and Connellsville Community Center, PT lot 7, South Cottage Avenue, \$55.14."

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. 3-14-2020: "To enter into agreement with Kisiel and Associates for Server Backup Protection, for the Administrative Department at City Hall; Money to be taken out of line item 402.330."

Councilman Keedy stated this is to backup the City's work to an outside location so if anything happens, they still have access to the work.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Tyler (IT Technician) for getting the employees set up in case they need to work from home.

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.

Councilman Keedy notified Council the City can easily hold itself for the next few months should anything happen like taxes do not come in. He also notified residents they can pay their taxes by sliding through the mail slot in front of the building.

Mayor Lincoln stated the City does not accept cash and he is hopeful that cash will not be accepted even after the pandemic, adding that most places have stopped accepting cash as well.

Councilman Keedy agreed and noted it would be easier on the Tax Office and Marilyn Weaver as well.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 3-15-2020: "To advertise for the hiring of summer workers for the Public Works Department to start out at a rate of \$8 per hour for a maximum of 35 hours per week for the summer season, such cost to be taken from line item #430-145."

Councilman Karpiak added you must have a Driver's License to apply. He also added it is a physical job using equipment and moving heavy objects.

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. 3-16-2020: "To approve road bonding for Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. for work access on Frank Gallo Lane and Connell Avenue, as part of the Connellsville Municipal Authorities' plant project."

Councilman Karpiak stated this will give the trucks access into the plant.

Councilman Karpiak addressed his being through open heart surgery and 6 bypasses. He stated his surgery was done at Connellsville Hospital and they were very accommodating and professional and everything moved so quickly. Councilman Karpiak stated he wants to thank and give a shout out to Connellsville Hospital for the good they do and their professionalism.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Councilman Karpiak for calling into the meeting and wished him a quick safe recovery.

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.

TZAN:

Resolution No. 3-17-2020: "To approve the contract between the City of Connellsville and Connellsville Girls Softball League for use of the ballfield at East Park for the 2020 Softball Season; Liability Insurance to be provided by the league as stated in the contract. Fees to be determined, pending the lifting of all applicable Emergency Declarations."

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. 3-18-2020: "To approve Dunbar Softball Team's request to use Woodruff Field beginning April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; league to be charged a rate of \$200 per team. The league will be responsible for obtaining their own Liability Insurance and providing a copy to the City Clerk prior to using the field, pending the lifting of all applicable Emergency Declarations."

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. 3-19-2020: "To grant use of the concession stand at Yough Park to the General Braddock's Fish Club in exchange for the stocking of the river and other civic services performed; noting Recreation Board events, such as, but not limited to, Twisted up in Wine, Wellness on the Yough and Tangled up in Brew to take precedence, pending the lifting of all applicable Emergency Declarations."

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. 3-20-2020: "To permit AARC Sports' use of Woodruff Basketball Court for a 3v3 summer basketball program for children ages 9 through 17; 18 if still enrolled in school. Basketball will take place Saturdays, from May 23rd through June 27th. from 9 am until 4 pm. AARC will donate \$5 per registered child back to Parks and Recreation Board for use of the courts. The use of food trucks may be used upon approval and review of City of Connellsville, pending the lifting of all applicable Emergency Declarations."

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. 3-21-2020: "To permit PE in the Park Summer Camp at East Park, Monday through Thursday, June 8th – 11th, June 15th – June 18th, June 22nd – 25th, July 6th – July 9th, July 13th – July 16th; 9 AM – 12 Noon, All students who completed grades 1 through 6 are welcome, pending the lifting of all applicable Emergency Declarations."

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 stated he was hoping to have the grand opening of the Dog Park in April, but that is postponed. He then stated that PA American contacted him and they are now approved to repave Ninth Street. He added he is hopeful they will repave Peach Street.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper stated he hopes everyone realizes that the firemen are on the front line and they do not get paid or health insurance. He added they are not having fundraisers right now due to COVID-19. He stated they need supplies at New Haven Hose. Councilman Topper stated if anyone would like to mail a donation, mail it to: 123 South 7th Street or drop it off at City Hall.

Mayor Lincoln stated he agrees and would like to find out how this process works with getting supplies to New Haven Hose to keep them safe while volunteering. He asked City Clerk Ohler to find out what New Haven Hose needs as far as supplies.

Resolution No. 3-22-2020: "To approve County Hauling requests for their contingency plan with the primary changes being:

1. Cardboard will need to be placed in trash bags for collection given concerns related to the transmittal of the virus via cardboard. 2. All waste must be bagged and no loose trash will be collected. 3. Residents are not to approach drivers. These changes are all retroactive to March 23,2020."

Mayor Lincoln stated City residents need to put their garbage bags in garbage cans. The employees of County Hauling cannot put their safety at risk.

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 stated he would like everyone to stay home and wash your hands, don't hangout in large groups and he wants everyone to stay safe. He wished the teachers and students of Connellsville Area School District well on their first day of on-line instruction.

Councilman Topper thanked Tom Currey for his hard work and time on keeping City Council updated on what is going on with the County and State with COVID-19.

Resolution No. 3-23-2020: "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.