

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2022

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

Councilman Keedy announced City Council held an Executive Session concerning personnel issues at 5:30 PM before City Council's Meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Led by Pastor Don Smith

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pastor Don Smith announced the Adopt a Block Party July 23rd at Yough Park beginning 1 PM until 6 PM. He added there will be children's activities, face painting, food, praise and worship and everything is free. Pastor Smith noted there will be "open flame pancakes".

Alaina Breakiron, Owner of Serenity Hill Counseling and Wellness on Crawford Avenue, discussed continuing Wellness on the Yough event. She noted she is looking at the date of September 10th that she would like to use Yough River Park for the event.

Councilman Topper stated Becca Corvin had reached out to him regarding continuing Wellness on the Yough. He stated he wants to be sure there are not two individuals working on the event separately.

Ms. Breakiron stated that she and Becca had discussed working on the event together.

Councilman Topper requested Ms. Breakiron attend the next Recreation Board Meeting and explain to the board her plan and vision for the Wellness on the Yough event.

Councilman Keedy stated the first thing to do is give it to the Recreation Board and then submit a letter to the city explaining the event. He added the city will review it and vote at the next City Council Meeting.

City Clerk Ohler instructed Ms. Breakiron to contact him and he will give her a date for the event.

Donna Welch spoke requesting use of the city lot across from the Comfort Inn to set up her food concession cart beginning today until the end of October. She added she has her Insurance Policy in place and her business license. She further stated she knows council must discuss the rent. Ms. Welch added she didn't have the letter together by last Thursday and would like an exception to the four-day rule allowing her to request this lot.

Solicitor Witt stated that cannot be approved tonight.

Councilman Keedy stated that cannot be approved tonight but her information can be submitted.

Councilman Topper stated his concern of a policy not being in place. He noted that if she uses the lot, then other people may want to use it as well and therefore a policy should be put into place.

Councilman Keedy instructed Ms. Welch contact the City Clerk and get a letter to him explaining exactly what the request is and exactly what she plans to do on the lot, how often and the hours she plans to use the lot and then council will take it into consideration at the next meeting.

Councilman Topper stated there should be a policy in place because the City has more and more food trucks now.

Paul Whipkey stated he is concerned that the clearing on the riverbank was not done properly and a different approach needs to be taken the next time along with long term planning. He stated the vegetation was to be cleared to allow for easier access to the water, better viewing from the park and decrease criminal activity. He noted two meeting he attended to discuss how the clearing would be done and what it would entail. Mr. Whipkey stated one person at the meetings was trained and experienced in watershed management who gave useful and logical suggestions on how to clear the bank and his suggested appeared to be ignored. He added one suggestion this person gave was for the project to have one person oversee which plants were removed and which plants would stay. He noted when he looked at the riverbank, that was not done and everything was cleared except the trees. He requested that the next time this is done to keep those three goals in mind along with a few other goals. Mr. Whipkey stated the plan should include riverbank stabilization with native plants, efforts to control the native goose problem, control of invasive plants which reversed all the good things that were done. He finalized his statements with a request that council plan in the future to keep the river and riverbank healthy.

Councilwoman Tiberio noted there were safeguards in place but everything just fell apart and we didn't get the Historical Society to sign off on it or have eyes on the project like the mayor requested. She added the city will have to take charge of it next year.

Councilman Topper stated council voted four to one to do it and it got done. He added just because one person disagrees and four people....

Councilwoman Tiberio stated "No, there was more than one person that disagrees."

Councilman Topper replied "Not on City Council and not the elected officials who voted 4 to 1."

Councilwoman Tiberio replied "To do it with the recommendation from the watershed."

Councilman Karpiak stated "We did."

Councilwoman Tiberio replied "No, we didn't."

Councilman Karpiak stated "I went down there and put the paint on the ground which he told me to do and then that was to be cut. That is what happened."

Councilwoman Tiberio asked if he spoke to R and R.

Councilman Karpiak stated he spoke with Nick.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she doesn't know who Nick is.

Councilman Karpiak replied "Nick is the....."

Councilwoman Tiberio stated "They took out a sapling too and it was scalped and that was not the plan."

Councilman Topper stated "I think a very small amount of people agree with you, but the overwhelming consensus was stating the riverbank looks great. I know you said to the untrained eye it does."

Councilwoman Tiberio noted it does look very pleasing and beautiful.

Councilman Karpiak added more needs to be cut.

Councilwoman Tiberio agreed noting she believes that will be hand selected.

Councilman Topper added they discussed how it could possibly be done in the future.

Councilman Karpiak stated the knotweed was discussed also.

Councilman Topper stated not cutting it was going to just go on and on.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated that was not going to happen it was to be done in the recommended fashion and that did not happen.

Councilman Topper added "When the majority of council feel that way then you will have....."

Councilwoman Tiberio stated "The majority of council agreed to the scope that Eric suggested. That is what we agreed to and I can read back the stuff from the newspaper."

Councilman Topper stated he is not discussing this and he made his feelings pretty well known and it is documented in those papers.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she can read it to him.

Councilman Topper replied he has read it.

Councilwoman Tiberio "I don't think you remember what you said. How many meetings do we have to have, because we know what needs to be done."

Councilman Keedy added he feels it is best to have a long-term solution that will benefit the park and the people who enjoy it.

Next to speak was Briana Pritts, Summer intern at Alternatives Yes, a pregnancy support center in Connellsville. Pritts explained the center and all it entails.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if abortions was one of their pregnancy options.

Ms. Pritts replied they are a life affirming center so we do not do referrals for abortions. She passed out a packet of information on the business for council to look through.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Weaver stated 32 businesses have not paid for their business license as of today.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if that is an increase from last year.

Treasurer Weaver replied she doesn't know and would have to look.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Malone, Somerset Trust Company, Street closure request for Car Cruise/Concert, June 28, 2022

Resolution No.: 6-1-2022: "To close North Seventh Street and the adjacent alley between St. John's Church and Somerset Trust from 6 PM - 10:30 PM on June 28, 2022 for Somerset Trust's Car Cruise/Concert; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No.: 6-2-2022: "To accept the minutes from the May 17, 2022 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No.: 6-3-2022: "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, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Resolution No.: 6-4-2022: "To authorize, approve and enter into the Auto-Theft Task Force Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 2022-2023; further authorizing and directing the Mayor, City Clerk and Police Chief and City Solicitor to execute such agreement and to authorize City Officials and employees to take such action as is necessary to effectuate such agreement."

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

Resolution No.: 6-5-2022: “To permit the City Clerk to apply for the 2022 Fayette County LSA grant on behalf of the city for masonry work at the Connellsville Community Center.”

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

Resolution No.: 6-6-2022: “To accept the Retirement Letter from Danny Sherbinsky from the Connellsville Police Department; final day of work to be August 1, 2022.”

Councilman Keedy wished Sherbinsky well on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service.

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

Resolution No.: 6-7-2022: “To accept the Retirement Letter from John James from the Connellsville Police Department; final day of work to be August 1, 2022.”

Councilman Keedy wished James well on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service.

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

REMINDERS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE: Connellsville.us

Councilman Keedy stated if you want your event posted to contact Shelley and she will add it to the City’s website and add it to the City’s Facebook page.

KEEDY:

Resolution No.: 6-8-2022: “To close both the Senior Center Account and the Recreation Account at Somerset Trust Company and transfer the remaining balances of \$.93 and \$4.46 respectively into the General Fund Account.”

Councilman Keedy stated there are two open now at Mid Penn Bank.

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

Resolution No.: 6-9-2022: “To transfer \$100,000.00 from the General Fund Account into the Capital Improvement Account.”

Councilman Keedy stated this will cover the upgrades that are needed at the Public Works Garage.

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

Resolution No.: 6-10-2022: "To adopt a Standard Operating Procedure for the issuing and signing of all City checks."

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

Resolution No.: 6-11-2022: "To advertise for quotes for the City of Connellsville's 2023 General Liability and Workers Compensation Insurances; Packets are to be submitted by August 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM and will be awarded at the September 20, 2022 City Council Meeting."

City Clerk Ohler stated the packets will probably be ready Friday or Saturday.

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

KARPIAK:

Health/Code Officer's Report

Councilman Karpiak stated there has been success in people cutting grass within the 30 days after being notified. He added Council is doing something tonight that will decrease that time even more.

Resolution No.: 6-12-2022: "To adopt Bill No. 3 of 2022: **AMENDING SECTION I OF ORDINANCE NO. 1556 FOR THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.**"

Councilman Karpiak thanked Councilman Topper for his work on this ordinance, noting he did a great job.

Councilman Keedy questioned when this ordinance goes into effect after being adopted tonight.

City Clerk Ohler stated ten days after it is adopted.

Councilman Keedy questioned if new tickets have to be ordered.

Councilman Topper answered he revised them and ordered new ones.

Councilman Karpiak stated this will allow the city to ticket you for not cutting your grass, picking up your garbage and other things.

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

New Haven Hose Report

TOPPER:

Resolution No.: 6-13-2022: "To accept the bid of Neviah Pipe Bursting, LLC in the amount of \$64,966.00 for the re-roofing of the Connellsville Public Works Garage on the two end towers for trussed metal roofing; pending review and approval of City Clerk, City Solicitor and Widmer Engineering. Money to be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund."

Councilman Karpiak noted this has been a long time coming with that building needing so much attention for so long. He further added the roof they put on is excellent and they just needed to finish up the two remaining roofs.

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

Councilman Topper stated the East Side Fire Station is going to be an asset and it is looking great.

Resolution No.: 6-14-2022: "To grant Cathy Kumor permission to use Yough River Park on Wednesdays beginning mid-June through early September 2022 from 9 AM until 10:30 AM for Yoga on the Yough."

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

Councilman Topper gave the Recreation Board updates:

June 26th, 1 PM – 4 PM, Connellsville High School students are doing a Life Skills "Friends Day" at East Park.

Tangled Up in Brew is being planned for October 1st. He added more details will be coming on this soon.

Councilman Keedy added June 2nd the Red White and Boom Festival and a lot of great things are planned that day including fireworks on July 2nd around 9:45 PM or as soon as it gets dark. He added there are at least 25 vendors that have signed up so far. Councilman Keedy encouraged everyone to come down to enjoy the music and watch the fireworks.

TIBERIO:

Public Works Report

Councilwoman Tiberio stated the Public Works have been busy cutting grass and ballfields. She added there are 4 seasonal workers that are working out well.

Councilwoman Tiberio announced the Street Foreman resigned, adding he is still part of the work force but no longer Foreman.

Resolution No.: 6-15-2022: "To promote James Bigam to Street Forman effective June 22, 2022."

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

Resolution No.: 6-16-2022: "To hire Milan Deffibaugh as a seasonal employee for the Public Works Department with funds to be taken out of line item 430.145."

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

Resolution No.: 6-17-2022: "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, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.