

**Connellsville City Council MINUTES**  
**MARCH 15, 2022**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Led by Pastor Higbee

Mayor Lincoln announced that the meeting would be done differently due to the City Controller having to attend another meeting. He called for the Controller to read his and New Haven Hose's Reports.

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:** Read by Bill Addis

New Haven Hose Report: Read by Bill Addis

Mayor Greg Lincoln announced that he will be swearing in the new Police Officer, Cody Ward, who is replacing John James. He thanked John James for his 20 years of service to the City of Connellsville and welcomed Cody Ward to the City.

**OATH** – Cody Ward, Patrolman

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor Lincoln thanked Dr. Frank Jacobyansky for the "Welcome to Connellsville" video.

Dr. Frank Jacobyansky, President of the Recreation Board spoke first. He stated the Recreation Board would like to repair the Washington Street (south side) playground and received an estimate of \$3,300 for fencing from All Around Fencing. He requested it be on next month's agenda for City Council to consider. He also stated the Recreation Board needs to know how to begin disbursing the Recreation Board funds on projects they would like to complete. He added the East Park parking project is on hold while Councilman Keedy is searching for grants for the project since the project estimate is \$60,000. He also stated that Paul Whipkey, Shade Tree Commission, will be speaking about the East Park bank. He announced the City wide cleanup on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and he would really like to get the City residents involved in the cleanup.

Paul Whipkey, Shade Tree Commission, stated the Braddock Fish Club requested the Yough river bank be cleared of brush and other growth along the Yough River Park by the property owned by the Historical Society to improve the view and create easy access for anglers. He noted that too much vegetation can be removed and cause negative effects. He stated erosion and stream sanitation is also a concern if the project is not done correctly. Mr. Whipkey stated a big concern of his is the invasion of the riverbank by the invasive plant, Japanese knotweed. He requested whoever does this project to get familiar with this plant since it is extremely invasive. He explained this plant to council and how it blocks the view. He noted who is available to assist with this project.

Mayor Lincoln stated one reason they keep the riverbank cut is to keep illegal activity out and from hiding.

Councilman Topper assured Mr. Whipkey that the Fish Club has an interest in doing the work correctly.

Mr. Whipkey stated he wants to be sure the work is being done with minimal damage.

Mayor Lincoln suggested Mr. Whipkey and Judge Haggerty meet at the river and discuss the project.

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Marilyn Weaver

Ms. Weaver announced there are 82 business licenses unpaid. She noted they may be out of business.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Veteran's Commission, Memorial Day Parade, May 30, 2022

**Resolution No.: 3-1-2022:** "To close West Crawford Avenue to North Pittsburgh Street and East Crawford Avenue to the Memorial at North Pittsburgh Street and Memorial Blvd. from 8:30 AM until 12 Noon for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2022; pending approval of Police Chief, Fire Chief and Penn DOT. Further authorizing the Veterans Commission to use the PA System, Podium and chairs for the Memorial Day Program."

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

Woodruff Race Committee, Woodruff Race, July 6, 2022

**Resolution No.: 3-2-2022:** "To temporarily close the following streets on July 6, 2022 for the John Woodruff Run/Walk; Starting at Falcon Stadium on South Arch Street to East Green Street to Isabella Road to Reidmore Road to West Gibson and back onto South Arch Street; 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 and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln announced Timothy Berdar, PA American Water Co. met with Councilwoman Carol Tiberio and City Clerk Ohler about replacing 1,500 feet of pipe from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the bridge. Mayor Lincoln read the letter from Mr. Berdar. He also stated he agrees that working at night is best for the businesses and workers.

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No.: 3-3-2022:** “To approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 City Council Meeting.”

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

**Resolution No.: 3-4-2022:** “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 and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

## **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln questioned Chief Hammerle how the officers are that were involved in the police shooting and if they are back on full duty.

Chief Hammerle stated the District Attorney stated that he is in the process of getting two of the four officers back on full duty, which are Detective Patton and Officer Cavanaugh. He added that the other two officers still need cleared and he must wait on the results of the crime lab and ballistics testing and other things that get technical. Chief Hammerle stated that he was given the information that things look well so far, as far as it being a good shoot. He added all four men received group counseling and two of the men requested further counseling. He further noted it was a tragedy and terrible call that they responded to that ended bad, but could have ended worse. Chief Hammerle added that we are lucky to have all four officers involved still here with us. He added that their hearts do go out to the families of the deceased.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Chief Hammerle, Lieutenant Shaffer from the PSP. He added this was handled very well by the PSP and District Attorney. He thanked Janine Brooks and Patty, noting it was a “all hands-on deck” time. Mayor Lincoln added Keedy’s sent over pizza to feed everyone and the State Police. He stated he is glad the officers are ok and thanked Chief Hammerle for running the show so well.

**Resolution No.: 3-5-2022:** “To amend the agenda for the March 15, 2022 City Council Meeting to add the following item for consideration by City Council, which item was brought to the City’s attention less than 24-hours prior to such meeting, and which does not involve entering into a contract or agreement or the expenditure of City funds: Pennsylvania American Water request to permit night-time operations.”

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

**Resolution No.: 3-6-2022:** “To authorize Pennsylvania American Water to conduct night-time operations for the Fourth Street and Crawford Avenue water line repair project, in accordance with the proposal of Pennsylvania American Water Company and with such project night-time operations to be completed within a period of three weeks.”

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

**Resolution No.: 3-7-2022:** “To place out for bid a 2008 Ford Explorer, as is condition. Bids must be accompanied with a 10% bid bond, check or money order, no cash. Bids will be received until 4:00 pm April 19, 2022.”

Mayor Lincoln stated this is the vehicle that the Health Officer currently drives and it will be replaced by the old Explorer from the Police Department. He added that the Detective’s vehicle is going to the Health Officer.

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

**Resolution No.: 3-8-2022:** “To grant the City Clerk permission to sign off on all necessary paperwork for the transfer of the 2008 Ford Explorer.”

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

**Resolution No.: 3-11-2022:** “This Memorandum of Understanding (this “MOU”) is entered into by and between the City of Connellsville, with an address at 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425 (the “City”) and the Connellsville Police Officers Association, with an address at 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425 (the “CPOA”).

Solicitor Witt explained this is an Agreement between the City and the Police Officer’s that has to do with the work that is being performed for the Bureau of Investigation. He added this is the States requirements that the City has to pay them as opposed to the County. He noted this will ensure there are no issues with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

**Resolution No.: 3-9-2022:** “To revise and finalize their FFY 2019 CDBG Program Activity Budgets as follows in order to complete and close out the projects; as well as direct the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to file the appropriate paperwork with DCED: Infectious Disease/Emergency Response Center – Upper Floor - \$ 222,896.00, Code Enforcement - \$ 22,475.00, General Administration - \$ 53,133.”

City Clerk Ohler stated this includes the East Side Fire Hall and it is looking good.

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

**Resolution No.: 3-10-2022:** “To revise and finalize their FFY 2020 CDBG-CV Program Activity Budgets as follows in order to complete and close out the projects; and to direct the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to file the appropriate paperwork with DCED: Infectious Disease/Emergency Response Center – Lower Floor – \$ 169,369.50, General Administration - \$ 24,362.50.”

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

Mayor Lincoln stated “Unfortunately we continue to still look for Janine’s replacement, so we will be tabling this until, hopefully we will have better candidates for our meeting for next month.”

#### **REMINDERS:**

March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM, Annie Jr., Connellsville Center Stage, [bhaines@casdfalcons.org](mailto:bhaines@casdfalcons.org) \$8 tickets, 724-628-8910 for information

March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM – 5 PM, New Haven Hose, Spring Vendor Show, 2 tables and 2 chairs provided, call Pam at 724-252-5208

March 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Rita’s Pancakes, Buckwheat Cakes & Sausage, 7 AM – Noon, Adults \$7, Under 12 \$2.00

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 10 AM, Breakfast with the Colonial Easter Bunny, Canteen, Adults \$15, Age 4 to 8 \$10, age 3 and under \$3, Must RSVP (only 40 seats available) 724-603-2093

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, City-wide clean-up day

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 2 PM, Chamber’s Community Yard Sale, 724-628-5500 to register

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 4 PM, Amish Donuts, H & R Parking Lot

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 PM, New Haven Hose, Neon Nights, \$25 before April 23<sup>rd</sup>, \$30 after April 23<sup>rd</sup>, register on-line [www.wolfcreektrackclub.com](http://www.wolfcreektrackclub.com)

May 14<sup>th</sup>, City's Spring clean-up day, Items to be at curb the evening before pickup

May 21<sup>st</sup>, Connellsville Area Garden Club, Geranium Sale, visit them on Facebook for information

Farmer's Market, 8 AM–2 PM: May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM, Veteran's Parade

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, General Braddock's Fish Club's Yough River Rally, visit General Braddock's Fish Club for information updates

This Saturday, Ben Skowronek, Superbowl Champion from the from the LA Rams will be at the Polish Club from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM. Mayor Lincoln announced he will be there to say hello to anyone who wants to meet him and the club will be open to the public.

#### **KEEDY:**

**Resolution No.: 3-12-2022:** "To abate and exonerate the City Treasurer from collecting 2022 Real Estate Taxes on City owned properties, which shall be exempt from 2022 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 Karpiak, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln questioned that last year at this time Council passed this resolution and also one for the II Club when Fayette Cultural Trust asked for the taxes to be abated. He stated he thought it was for only one year and they would have to come back and request it again and asked if that was the case.

Solicitor Witt replied the trust would have to come back and request it again.

#### **KARPIAK:**

Health/Code Officer's Report

Tom Currey announced grass season is coming up and remember to keep it cut.

**Resolution No.: 3-13-2022:** “To forward the Board of Health’s Order to abate the public nuisance known as 511 East Murphy Avenue, Parcel ID 05-09-0022 by demolishing the structure and to forward this order to the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to execute said order.”

Tom Currey stated the City will put a lien against the property, but the owner can’t be found.

Mayor Lincoln asked how the City acquires that property since the City is tearing it down, yet the current owner still owns it.

Tom Currey answered that one, the City can do a Sherrif’s Sale but most like it will go to the Tax Sale first.

Councilman Topper stated that if a neighbor maintains these types of properties, the City should just let them have the property. He explained that it has been the City’s responsibility to cut the grass and the Redevelopment Authority, noting it is costing the City money to do this maintenance. He continued that there needs to be a solution to the City demolishing homes and being left with a vacant lot that no one wants to maintain.

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

Councilman Karpiak announced the next resolutions are due to the City now handling the Uniform Construction Code and noted it will no longer be done by the County.

**Resolution No.: 3-14-2022:** “To appoint Nordic Shreve to the UCC Appeals Board with the term to expire January 2023.”

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

**Resolution No.: 3-15-2022:** “To appoint Vince Speer to the UCC Appeals Board with the term to expire January 2024.”

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

City Council discussed the process and costs with the UCC Board.

**Resolution No.: 3-16-2022:** “To appoint Tim DeMott to the UCC Appeals Board with the term to expire January 2025.”

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

**Resolution No.: 3-17-2022:** "To appoint Bruce Witt to the UCC Appeals Board with the term to expire January 2026."

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

**Resolution No.: 3-18-2022:** "To appoint Kerry Bell to the UCC Appeals Board with the term to expire January 2027."

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

**TOPPER:**

**Resolution No.: 3-19-2022:** "To reappoint Frank Jacobyansky to the Connellsville Recreation Board; term to expire January 2027."

Councilman Topper thanked Dr. Jacobyansky for all he has done for the Recreation Board and City.

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

**Resolution No.: 3-20-2022:** "To grant permission to Connellsville Girls' Softball League permission to use East Park and Mountz Creek from April 1, 2022 until July 31, 2022; pending valid Insurance Certificates provided to and approved by the City Clerk prior to use of park."

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

**Resolution No.: 3-21-2022:** "To enter into an Agreement with the Dunbar Softball team for use of Woodruff ballfield for the 2022 season providing proof of liability insurance and all other provisions of said Agreement."

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



**Resolution No.: 3-22-2022:** “To hire Gary Huffine as a seasonal weekday and weekend worker for the Public Works Department; money to be taken out of line item 430.145.”

Councilman Topper stated he is more seasoned with work experience and job skills.

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

**Resolution No.: 3-23-2022:** “To hire Mason Hollis as a seasonal weekday and weekend worker for the Public Works Department; money 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 and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No.: 3-24-2022:** “To hire Michael Hollis as a seasonal weekday and weekend worker for the Public Works Department; money 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 and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No.: 3-25-2022:** “To hire Jake Sanzone as a seasonal weekday and weekend worker for the Public Works Department; money 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 and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Topper thanked all the guys that applied and stated he is looking forward to them starting work. He added it is necessary work and the Public Works Department gets a lot of things thrown at them.

Councilman Topper then discussed the next resolution. He stated with the Visitors Bureau at the concession stand at Yough Park and the Fish Club has been doing some things there and the City has the ability to have someone else operate out of the concession stand. He added the next resolution will be a really good thing for the City, to be able to sit at the park and drink coffee.

**Resolution No.: 3-26-2022:** “To enter into a License Agreement, prepared and approved by the City Solicitor, with James Cox to operate a coffee shop out of the concession stand at Yough Park starting April 1, 2022 until November 1, 2022, at a fee of \$75 per month plus alterations to the concession stand that will remain permanently at lease's end.”

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

Mayor Lincoln requested Councilman Topper the City use the concession stand during Tangled Up In Brew.

Councilman Topper replied he went over events with him and he is willing to work around events and possibly be a part of them as well. He added that \$75 a month may not sound like a lot, then noted he is making alterations to the concession stand.

**Resolution No.: 3-27-2022:** "To permit Jason Bandemer use of East Park this upcoming summer pending proof of liability insurance and fees. Dates to be determined."

Mayor Lincoln announced the Facebook page for this is: PE In The Park and that is where you can get the information on it. He added this will gets the kids out, active and socialize. He thanked Jason and the teachers who assist him with coaching the kids.

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

Councilman Topper apologized to Dr. Jacobyansky and the Recreation Board, noting they voted on some things at the last meeting that he dropped the ball on. He stated he will have their items on the next agenda so they can get things lined up for what they plan to do. He added the Recreation Board is doing a great job.

#### **TIBERIO:**

Public Works Report

MS4 (Stormwater Program) Public Announcement. Councilwoman Tiberio announced the information is on the City's website.

Councilwoman Tiberio announced that PennDOT has agreed to add a raised sidewalk on the north side of the McCray Robb Bridge with a shared bike/walk lane on the opposite side. She stated they are still discussing acceptable crash barriers that will allow the best view of the river.

Councilwoman Tiberio then discussed the meeting with PA American Water Co. about the lines they are going to replace. She stated in the spring they will move to the east side and some of the side streets up there.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated PennDOT is putting bids out on March 31<sup>st</sup> for the York Avenue Bridge project.

**Resolution No.: 3-28-2022:** “To adopt Bill No. 1 of 2022, REGULATING MOTOR VEHICLES FROM MAKING RIGHT TURNS ONTO SAID STREET BELOW TO PERMIT FINES AND PENALTIES ALLOWED BY THE MOTOR VEHICLE CODE.”

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the City Council of the City of Connellsville, as is hereby ordained and enacted by the Authority of the same as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The following location be established as “No Right Turn” and such signs shall be erected in a position as to face traffic approaching the named street. Every driver of a vehicle approaching said sign shall not proceed through erected signs.

**NO RIGHT TURN**

Exiting the main entrance/exit at Dunkin’ Donuts onto Highland Ave.

**SECTION 2.** Any person who violates any provision of this section shall upon conviction pay a fine of \$25.00 dollars and costs.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

This Ordinance is duly **ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by a majority of the members of the City Council of the City of Connellsville at a duly advertised public meeting held on the 15th day of March, 2022.

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

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Public Works Department for keeping up with the last snow storm, noting he never received a complaint.

**Resolution No.: 3-29-2022:** “That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn.”

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