

Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
June 15, 2021

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:00 PM. 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: Pastor Matt Goldsberry led invocation

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chuck Hubble discussed "Toast Masters Club of Laurel Highlands".

Frank Jacobyansky, Connellsville Recreation Board update.

Mr. Jacobyansky stated the Yough River Rally was a success and the Recreation Board hopes to continue the event for years to come. He added on June 27th the Recreation Board is holding a Bluebird building event at East Park. He also stated they are trying to have a crochet tournament on August 7th at East Park. Mr. Jacobyansky stated Wellness on the Yough is scheduled for September and Tangled Up in Brew in September. He added there are two summer recreational programs through the high school. He then announced that each member of the Recreation Board adopted a park and have a wish list of what they would like done with that park over the next 4 to 5 years. He noted they have a short term and long-term plan with the parks and briefed Council on what the plans mean. Mr. Jacobyansky stated the Recreation Board feels there should be restrooms on the 12th Street field. He questioned City Council if there are nets at Mountz Creek Park.

City Clerk Ohler stated they are ordered but he doesn't know when they will be in.

Mr. Jacobyansky stated WPXI will be doing Olympic Coverage story.

Councilman Topper asked about the Day of Caring and what Williams Company has done for the city.

City Clerk Ohler stated they once had all their projects in the city and have now expanded into the County.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Weaver gave her report.

Treasurer Weaver reminded residents that the end of June is the face amount due on their bills.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Controller Witt gave his report.

Controller Witt stated his report looks different since the auditor wants him to go off of QuickBooks rather than the bank account.

CORRESPONDENCE:

John Woodruff Race Committee, John Woodruff 5K Run/Walk, October 24th, Request to close streets

Resolution No. 6-1-2021: “To temporarily close the following streets on July 7, 2021 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.”

Mayor Lincoln stated Parker Scarry had some of his neighbors sign a petition. He stated he would like to see Frisbee Avenue changed to Parker Way. Mayor Lincoln stated maybe they can put a sign “Parker Way” over Frisbee Avenue. He suggested this request be given to the Traffic Committee.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 6-2-2021: “To approve the minutes from the May 18, 2021 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. 6-3-2021: “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 given by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln stated South Connellsville Borough voted to move forward with discussions with the city for us to take over their Police coverage. He added Solicitor Witt put a resolution together for Council to vote to approve to allow him to put the agreement together. He further added Council can discuss it at the July Council Meeting. Mayor Lincoln asked the Police Chief when they may take over the borough police territory.

Chief Hammerle answered there is a lot that factors in to that answer. He discussed reports and filings. He added he would like to have an Eligibility List ready and has already given out around six applications today – which is the first day giving them out.

Mayor Lincoln asked Chief Hammerle what he feels about the city taking over South Connellsville Police territory.

Chief Hammerle stated he feels it is a win-win for both parties. He stated the borough has a part time force and relies on the State to come in when they are not working. He added when the borough gets police officers they are usually hire right out of the academy and they have no experience. He stated with the city going in there, that would give years and years of experience to that area and they would be getting a very professional service. He added that if two more full time officers are hired, that will help the city tremendously.

Mayor Lincoln stated the borough will cover the expenses of the services provided to them. He then asked Solicitor Witt when the start date will be in the agreement with the borough.

Solicitor Witt stated it will be in August 1st pending both Councils approve the agreement at their July meeting.

Resolution No. 6-4-2021: "To permit Cathy Kumor use of Yough Park for "Yoga on the Yough" starting June 21, 2021 through early September 2021."

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 requested the grass be cut where yoga is done.

Resolution No. 6-5-2021: "To approve a recommendation by the Traffic Committee to install a curb cut along West Fairview Avenue for the Christian Church of Connellsville for exiting their parking lot. Christian Church of Connellsville will cover the expenses."

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. 6-6-2021: "To approve a recommendation from the Traffic Committee for installation of a No Parking sign on Carnegie Avenue at the entrance of the Carnegie Library parking lot."

City Clerk Ohler stated they want it on the southern side.

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. 6-7-2021: "To grant permission to the Connellsville Recreation Board to have the Ribfest on July 3rd, 2021 on North Arch Street and West Apple Street from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM."

Mayor Lincoln stated he, Clerk Ohler and Councilman Keedy have put the Ribfest together. He added they received grant money from the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau to cover all the expenses except

the entertainment. He also stated Clerk Ohler got sponsors for the entertainment. He announced the vendors and entertainment. Mayor Lincoln added the Connellsville Festival Association is sponsoring the fireworks along with Somerset Trust Company around 9:45 PM – 10 PM. He added donations for the fireworks is being accepted at 512 West Crawford Avenue payable to Connellsville Festival Association.

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. 6-8-2021: “To Close North Arch Street from Orchard Alley to West Peach Street and West Apple Street from Meadow Lane to Water Street from 1:00 PM on July 3rd, 2021 until 9:00 AM July 4th, 2021 for the Ribfest; pending approval from the Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

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. 6-9-2021: “To close Water Street from Fairview Avenue to West Peach Street starting at 8:00 PM until 11:00 PM for Fourth of July Fireworks, upon approval from the Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

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. 6-10-2021: “To approve the tentative agreement with South Connellsville Borough for the provision of police services on the terms and conditions previously discussed between City and Borough representatives; and to authorize the solicitor to prepare a written agreement to be entered into by the parties for police services.”

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.

REMINDERS:

Farmers Markets, June 19th, July 10th, 31st, August 7th, 21st, September 11th, October 2nd. We are searching for non-profits to sell food/drinks/snacks at the Farmers Markets. Available dates are: July 10th and 31st and September 11th. Please call 724-628-2020 ext. 201 for information. Cost is \$10.

June 19th, Juneteenth, 1 PM at Veteran’s Plaza

Mayor Lincoln added on the 19th is the Barstool Open hosted by the 20 Club at 10 AM at Foxes Tavern. He added it is a 12-hole competition.

He reminded residents June 20th is Father's Day

June 20th, 7 PM - 9 PM, Lions Concert-Del Sols, Lions Square

June 26th, Braddock's Crossing, 11 AM, Crawford's Cabin at Yough Park

June 27th, 7 PM - 9 PM, Lions Concert- Tane Lynn & Shadow Creek, Lions Square

June 27th, 1 PM – 3 PM, Recreation Board and Pennsylvania Game Commission State Game Warden Shawn Greevy's Build a Bluebird Box, building materials provided. Call Mike at 724-323-2212 to register so that the Game Commission knows how many box kits, hammers and nails to bring. Registration will be accepted until and including June 23rd. The Game commission will have a short history of PA bluebird's presentation.

June 29th, 6 PM, Somerset Trust Car Cruise featuring Scott Blasey, Somerset Train Station

July 3rd, Rockin Dave Reed & Terry Cellurale Rib Fest, 4 PM until 11 PM with fireworks

July 4th, Pa's Fish for Free Day, this allows residents to fish on PA waterways with no fishing license, trout/salmon permit or Lake Erie permit required. All other fishing regulations still apply.

July 7th, Woodruff 5K Run/Walk

July 15th, 16th and 17th, St. Rita's Festival

September 3rd, Wellness on the Yough

Christian Church, 212 S. Pittsburgh Street, Free Community Lunch every Monday beginning 11:30 AM until 1 PM, 724-628-3802 for information

PE In the Park, East Park, June 14th – July 22nd, 724-433-9608 for information

10th Anniversary of the Tangled Up in Brew, October 2nd

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 6-11-2021: "To advertise for a part time tax clerk for the Tax Office with starting wage at \$8.00/HR. Wages to be taken out of line item 403.144."

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 the auditor announced the audit can be done by July or August this year, pending all information needed gets to him. He added this is earlier than usual.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak stated the Public Works Department is down one man and he prays all goes well with George. Added they are still in need of summer help if anyone is interested. He further added you only need a Driver's License.

Resolution No. 6-12-2021: "To place out for bid "Dutch Bottom Bank Stabilization Project." Bids will be received at Widmer Engineering, 223 West Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425. Bids will be opened at 6:00 PM at the July 20, 2021 Council Meeting; money to be reimbursed through the Fayette County Growing Greener Grant."

City Clerk Ohler stated they were waiting for the Municipal Authority to be finished with their project and for the York Bridge to be done. He added they are almost done with the bridge.

Councilman Karpiak discussed fixing the bridge on the other side of the tunnel at East Park. He added he was impressed and they will be repairing that bridge for less than initially thought. He further added they will be removing trees in the creek.

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. 6-13-2021: "WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolution No. 04-13-2021, adopted April 20, 2021, the City of Connellsville declared its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual adopted December 16, 2008 and amended on March 28, 2016, and,
WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, each individual act of disposition shall be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in accordance with the above cited Municipal Records Manual, hereby authorizes the disposition of the following public records attached hereto"

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.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report
New Haven Hose Report

Resolution No. 6-14-2021: “To adopt Bill # 1 of 2021: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, This Ordinance shall be known as the Sign Ordinance of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The purposes of these sign regulations are to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of identification and communication, to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment of the City of Connellsville, to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety, and to promote and protect the public health, safety, morals, and the general welfare of the City by avoiding the uncontrolled proliferation of signs.”

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 questioned what is different between the previous sign ordinance and this one.

Councilman Topper answered it is made to be enforceable and holds up in a court of law. He added there is new types of flags and court orders come down and require municipalities to make changes.

Solicitor Witt added this makes sure there are no unconstitutional provisions in the ordinance.

Code Officer Currey stated it makes it easier for businesses along the corridor to put up signs.

Councilman Topper thanked Solicitor Witt, Tom Currey, Vernon Ohler for all their work and involvement in making this ordinance happen. He then discussed blight issues will begin to be addressed next month. He added there are approximately seven programs Council will be looking into. Councilman Topper stated to get rid of blight there will have to be a collection of programs and not just one law or ordinance. He added Council will work with the Redevelopment Authority and County with this project. He further explained a Block-by-Block Program and getting property owners on board with the program. He added that it does not matter if a property is owned by an individual or landlord.

Councilman Topper reminded residents to keep their grass cut. He notified residents if they ignore the warnings and letters, the City will cut their grass and lien their property.

Resolution No. 6-15-2021: “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.