

**Connellsville City Council
Minutes
OCTOBER 21, 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. Matt Goldsberry led invocation

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

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Linda Shearer, CAHS Patriots: Veterans Luncheon at noon on November 8th at the Readiness Center on Petersburg Road; Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery in Bridgeville on December 13th.

Dunbar Mayor Norm Gordon, Thanked Council and the public for help during Dunbar's flood.

Lucey King, Downtown Connellsville's request for benches and flower pot placements on the West Crawford Avenue and Arch Street.

Anthony Kiliany, Renter of the concession stand at Yough Park called "My Bossy Friends Place": Asked if City Council has drawn up an Agreement, notified Council that someone dumped dirt on his landscaping around the concession stand and he would like it cleaned up and he will be open for Trick-or-Treat passing out treats.

Mayor Lincoln stated over the next few days the contract should be ready for Mr. Kiliany to review.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Veterans Commission, Veterans Day Parade, November 11th at 10:45 AM

Resolution No. 10-1-2014: "To close West Crawford Avenue and all cross streets starting from Seventh Street continuing on to Pittsburgh Street; North Pittsburgh Street and all cross streets to the Memorial; North Pittsburgh Street by the Memorial for the Ceremony and all cross street affected on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 for the Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony at 10:45 AM; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Penn DOT."

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.

Johanna Harden, Garden Club, Requesting permission to work on City property.

Resolution No. 10-2-2014: "To approve and permit the Connellsville Garden Club, to contract with a responsible contractor carrying liability insurance deemed sufficient by the City, for the renovation of plantings, removal and replanting of shrubbery/trees, removal of tree stumps and dead trees, removal and replacement of a Bradford Pear tree from Veterans Plaza, and removal of old yews behind the Veteran's flagpole. The Club will finance the above projects, at no cost to the City."

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.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 10-3-2014: "To accept the minutes from the September 16, 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. 10-4-2014: "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:

Lincoln announced a suspect was apprehended for breaking into cars on the south side and is now in the County Jail. He requested residents lock their vehicles and not leave valuables out.

Police Department Report

Lincoln stated the Auxiliary Police and New Haven Hose will be all over the City for Trick-or-Treat evening. He requested parents remain with their children throughout Trick-or-Treat.

Lincoln announced under the advice of Solicitor Witt, the Burning Ordinance will be tabled while under the DEP's review. He noted residents are still under State Regulations and not permitted to burn garbage.

Lincoln stated after December 31st of this year, the County is going digital which means the City's Police Radios must be replaced to digital radios.

Resolution No. 10-5-2014: "To purchase ten (10) digital radios for the City of Connellsville at the cost of \$14,100.00 from the PLGIT Capital Reserve Account #5049092."

Geyer asked if the City will still have the contract with Stanley Communications. Chief Capitos stated the City will have to discuss that at the Budget Meetings.

Geyer questioned Capitos if he received other quotes for the Police Radios. Capitos answered they did receive quotes from other places.

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. 10-6-2014: “**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Act of January 24, 1966, P.L. 1535, No. 537, known as the “Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act”, as Amended, and the rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted thereunder, Chapter 71 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code, require the municipality to adopt an Official Sewage Facilities Plan providing for sewage services adequate to prevent contamination of waters of the Commonwealth and/or environmental health hazards from sewage wastes, and to revise said plan whenever it is necessary to determine whether a proposed method of sewage disposal for a new land development conforms to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management, and

WHEREAS, Hotel D2 Services Group has proposed the development of a parcel of land identified as Connellsville Cobblestone Hotel, and described in the attached Sewage Facilities Planning Module, and proposes that such subdivision be served by sewer tap-ins,

WHEREAS, City of Connellsville finds that the subdivision described in the attached Sewage Facilities Planning Module conforms to applicable sewage related zoning and other sewage related municipal ordinances and plans, and to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Connellsville hereby adopt and submit to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval as a revision to the “Official Sewage Facilities Plan” of the municipality the above referenced Sewage Facilities Planning Module which is attached hereto.”

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. 10-7-2014: “**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Act of January 24, 1966, P.L. 1535, No. 537, known as the “Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act”, as Amended, and the rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted thereunder, Chapter 71 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code, require the municipality to adopt an Official Sewage Facilities Plan providing for sewage services adequate to prevent contamination of waters of the Commonwealth and/or environmental health hazards from sewage wastes, and to revise said plan whenever it is necessary to determine whether a proposed method of sewage disposal for a new land development conforms to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management, and

WHEREAS, Sheetz, Inc. has proposed the development of a parcel of land identified as Sheetz 124R City of Connellsville, and described in the attached Sewage Facilities Planning Module, and proposes that such subdivision be served by sewer tap-ins,

WHEREAS, City of Connellsville finds that the subdivision described in the attached Sewage Facilities Planning Module conforms to applicable sewage related zoning and other sewage related municipal ordinances and plans, and to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Connellsville hereby adopt and submit to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval as a revision to

the "Official Sewage Facilities Plan" of the municipality the above referenced Sewage Facilities Planning Module which is attached hereto."

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 thanked John Rulli, his wife Pam and son Mike for cleaning-up Zach Connell's Grave.

Lincoln stated an eighth grade resident, Carley Sherieve, wanted to give back to the community. He added she held a community event and raised \$700 - \$800 and donated it to the Carnegie Library and held a food drive for the Community Ministries. Lincoln thanked her for starting young and her parents for supporting her.

Lincoln announced residents on East Francis Avenue had their road paved Friday. He thanked Mayor Matthews, former Councilwoman Weaver, Councilmen Geyer, Ritch and Karpiak for using the Community Development Block Grant Money to pave that road.

Ritch thanked Mayor Lincoln noting he had played an important role in the paving as well.

REMINDERS:

Haunted Hallways, Community Center, every Friday and Saturday in October

October 24th 6 PM – 7:30 & 25th 2 PM – 4 PM, Ghosts of Fayette County, Community Center, \$6, 724-626-0300

October 25th, Parade of Costumes, 2 PM, Community Center, 724-626-0300

October 25th, Grand Opening of Somerset Trust, games/activities/give-a-ways/prizes/trolley rides/lunch/hydraulic scissor lift/music/birthday wheel/magician/local historian at the train station. 11 AM – 2 PM. 724-626-1725

October 25th, Monster Mash Dance, Community Center, 7PM – 9 PM, \$3, 724-626-0300

October 26th, Trunk or Treat, 3 PM - 5 PM, Rev. Chris, 724-628-3802, parking lot of Christian Church on corner of S Pittsburgh and Fairview Ave. Free Admission. Bring children in costume & enjoy trick or treating/carnival/games/cookies/hot chocolate & more. Trunks of cars will be decorated.

October 28th, Halloween Parade, 7 PM

Mayor Lincoln thanked Seth and Armstrong Cable for providing flashlights for the children use during Trick-or-Treat.

October 31st, Trick or Treat, 6 PM – 8 PM

November 1st, Evening of Art, Murphy Hall, \$10 tickets at Artworks

November 1st, New Haven Hose Hoagie Sale, 724-626-1171

November 1st, Carnegie Library Book Sale, \$5 bag of books

November 8th, Harold Betters Day in the City and celebration at the Canteen

November 8th, Harold Betters Concert at Porter Theater, 7:30 PM, \$15

November 15th, Skyliners, Porter Theater, 7:30 PM, \$20

November 22nd, Light up Night and Christmas Parade

City Hall will be closed on the following dates: November 11th for Veterans Day, November 27th and 28th for Thanksgiving Day

GEYER:

Resolution No. 10-8-2014: "To pay \$402,779.00 into the Police and Fire Fighters Pension Plans in order to satisfy the 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO). The amount includes the \$166,525.24 General Municipal Pension System State Aid as received from the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office and \$236,253.76 to be taken from General Fund Account. \$301,381.00 to be deposited in the Police Pension Plan and \$101,398.00 to be deposited in the Fire Fighters Pension Plan."

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. 10-9-2014: "To authorize the payment of \$32,479.62 to the New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department as required by Act 205; money from the Auditor General's Office for the 2014 Commonwealth Allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association."

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. 10-10-2014: "To schedule the Budget Meetings for the following dates and times in City Council Chambers: October 30, 2014 at 6:30 PM, November 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM, November 13, 2014 at 6:30 PM and November 17, 2014 at 7:30 PM."

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. 10-11-2014: "To participate in the 2015 G Conference. Location, dates and times will be determined during planning meetings. There is no cost to 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.

Resolution No. 10-12-2014: "To reimburse the City of Connellsville General Fund for allowable fire hydrant expenses of \$38,028.76 from the 2012 Act 13 funds received."

Zolbrod questioned if the City could use the money elsewhere if the money did not have to be paid.

Council answered yes.

Zolbrod stated there is no contract. He questioned what the City gets for the \$38,000.00.

Geyer explained that because there are only certain items the Act 13 can be spent on, the City chose to reimburse ourselves the use of the fire hydrants so we could take the \$38,000.00 we spend on the fire hydrants and use that wherever we needed to.

Zolbrod answered there are other areas we could use that money on.

Geyer stated that when we sit down at the Budget Meetings, we can then determine that.

Zolbrod replied that is not his issue, it is that we are renting fire hydrants and there is no contract.

Mayor Lincoln stated the City pays \$4,400.00 per month.

Zolbrod questioned what the City gets for the \$4,400.00 per month.

Tom Currey answered there is a contract and it was signed a long time ago. He noted he does not know where it is, but a generic form was put in their mail slots. Currey added that what the City gets is that they maintain the hydrants, or say they do along with the water lines. He also noted that how many hydrants the City has is up to the City and the International Fire Codes.

Geyer stated this is dealing with the 2012 money and the 2013 money was deposited into the General Fund. He added that will have to be transferred back out into the Act 13 Account and then back into the General Fund Account to create the proper paper trail for auditing purposes. Geyer added that the 2014 the City designated, that \$41,000.00 is to off-set the fire hydrant rentals again. He stated when we sit down for the Budget Meetings we can then determine where we are going to use the \$41,000.00.

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. 10-13-2014: "To approve and enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Administrative Employees Union to permit Joyce Shaffer to work full-time, effective October 22, 2014, as defined under the applicable collective bargaining agreement (as amended and supplemented with memorandum of understanding), until further notice from the City, without any change, increase, or reduction of salary or rate of pay, providing for the pro-rated accumulation of personal days and sick days beginning on said effective date; providing for payment of remaining holidays for 2014; providing eligibility for short-term disability insurance coverage and life insurance coverage; and providing for the accumulation of vacation days beginning on her one-year anniversary date of February 3, 2015."

Karpiak stated Council has found her indispensable.

Mayor Lincoln stated "I agree."

Zolbrod stated "She is awesome."

Lincoln stated the salary that she will make is the salary she makes now. "We are just making her full-time so she gets the benefits of it." Mayor Lincoln stated.

Geyer stated the City needs her the extra hours. He explained that the new auditor is working closely with Joyce (Shaffer/Bookkeeper) in correcting the accounting that has been done the past few years. He stated, "Joyce has done a tremendous amount of work to get things square for this year so we can be ready for our Budget Meetings and to clean up the old mess. I am absolutely ecstatic with the work she does for us. She answers all the questions we have for her. If she doesn't have the answer she will find it out. She is very thorough with her work. You all received an email today that she started a Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the Fiscal Department. We now have a paper trail that we can all work off of. She asked that each of you look at it and sign off on it. We have purchased new accounting software to use in the Accounts and Finance Office and the Tax Office. We are using an Edmunds System that costs around \$4,000 a year for the annual license fee for it. We are switching over to Quick Books. Quick Books will fulfill all the City's needs in our accounting procedures. It will also give us an easy picture of the City's finances. Joyce has experience in her previous employment with the Quick Books System. It's an easy transition for her and its easy software to use so we can easily cross train the rest of the office. I can't say enough good of how Joyce has worked as a member of our team. It goes without saying this is an easy decision for us to make."

Lincoln stated he agrees.

Ritch stated he agrees as well.

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. 10-14-2014: "To approve the proposal of Downtown Connellsville to purchase and install benches, flower planters, and trash receptacles with lids in the following locations and in accordance with the attached Exhibit, at no cost to the City. Such items shall be owned by the City and trash receptacles shall be emptied by the City, its employees, agents or subcontractors."

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.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 10-15-2014: "To direct the City Clerk to advertise for bid 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, Equipment can be seen at Public Works Building, 131 West South Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, Phone 724-628-2020 EX 301; bids are due in the City Clerk's Office, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425 no later than Monday, November 17, 2014 at 4:00 PM."

Zolbrod questioned the advertising and if the truck could be taken to the auction. He expressed his concern that there is not enough advertising therefore the City is not getting Fair Market Value. Solicitor Witt explained the Third Class City Code dictates the advertising. Zolbrod asked if a minimum bid could be added. Witt stated the City could reject any bid.

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.

Karpiak stated the leaf pick-up has started on October 20th, added schedule is available on the City's website and Facebook.

Karpiak announced the compost is ready and can be picked up at the City garage and the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Karpiak added that Francis Avenue paving is completed.

RITCH:

Resolution No. 10-16-2014: "To open bids for the sale of the City owned vacant property on South Pittsburgh Street (Parcel ID 05-07-0357)."

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.

Two bids were received and opened:

Clyde Goodman, \$100, \$20 bond, 216 West Gibson Avenue, Connellsville, his intent is to make the property look nice.

Stephanie Hunter, \$200, \$40 bond, 325 South Pittsburgh Street, her intent is to clear the property and eventually turn it into a sitting area for the neighborhood.

Ritch requested the higher of the bids, Stephanie Hunter, be accepted.

Resolution No. 10-17-2014: "To accept the bid of Stephanie Hunter in the amount of \$200.00 for the sale of City owned vacant property on South Pittsburgh Street (Parcel ID 05-07-0357)."

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. 10-18-2014: "That the City of Connellsville hereby declares that the East Park Band Shell, will be known and called the Harold Betters Band Shell, as a lasting tribute to this world-famous Connellsville son."

Ritch added Mr. Betters is one of the City's ambassadors and patriots and probably one of the City's most notable citizens. He added it is an honor for us (Council) to do this in his name.

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. 10-19-2014: "To amend Section 5 of that certain Independent Contractor Agreement with Gary Barker by increasing the independent contractor's compensation to \$1,550.00 per month from the current amount of \$1,290.00 per month."

Karpiak questioned where his pay comes from and if the City pays insurance for him. Ritch answered his pay comes from the rents collected at the Community Center and the City does not pay insurance for him.

Ritch explained Barker works with the other employee to cover the hours the Community Center is open, adding he is there sometimes at 1 AM.

Geyer questions what the occupancy rate was when the City took over the Community Center. Ritch answered 2% and it is now about 96% occupancy rate.

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. 10-20-2014: "To pay R & J Network \$5,100.00 to install a security system in City Hall; money to be taken from the PLGIT Capital Reserve Account Line Item Number #50490592."

Ritch stated that the City is looking into getting a buzzer security system installed in the front door of City Hall. He explained there was an issue with a resident and the Police Chief sat in the Administrative Office with a weapon for a few hours. Council decided to discuss with John Mascelli (R & J Network) on what system and where to place it.

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. 10-21-2014: "To pay Ghost Floor Store \$4,985.00 for installation of carpeting in the Porter Theater at the Connellsville Community Center; money to be taken from the PLGIT Capital Reserve Account Number #0549092; to be reimbursed by the Community Center, pending approval of Solicitor."

Ritch stated we are asking the Solicitor to draw up a contract between the Community Center and the Porter Theater to begin in January 2015 and to pay this amount back. He stated this is a loan from the City to the Community Center.

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. 10-22-2014: "To direct the City Clerk to advertise for the position of Custodian; position to be 20 hours per week at \$7.50 per hour and \$150.00 per week; money to be taken

out of line item #01430-145 (Seasonal Employee) until December 31, 2014 and line item #01409-140 (Custodian) for the year of 2015.”

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 thanked Mr. Sherieve and his welding class. He stated his class made new back board hoops for the parks that have basketball hoops.

Lincoln also thanked Mr. Puscar and his masonry class from the Vo-Tech did the cement slab at Mountz Creek Park for the pavilion being built. He also thanked Universal Ready Mix for the materials. Lincoln thanked the carpentry class for the Adirondack Shelters they built.

ZOLBROD:

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

Zolbrod reminded the public to not throw their cigarettes on the ground because it ends up in the streams and rivers and is a form of littering.

Zolbrod stated Karpiak questioned him on the Ebola if it hit the City. He stated he called Highland's Hospital and spoke to the Infectious Control who sent over an email. Email available upon request.

CITY TREASURER KELLER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER BROOKS REPORT:

Resolution No. 10-23-2014: “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.