

**CONNELLSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 17, 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, Tzan, Karpiak and Topper. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Anthony Barbarano, asked what the status is of the road in front of his house on South Pittsburgh Street.

Mayor Lincoln stated “PennDOT stated this is a water company issue. The water company is stating that it is not their issue and PennDOT will need to prove it is their issue. We are now caught waiting for them to fight this out. Until this is resolved, there is nothing the City can do.”

Councilman Karpiak stated it has been said, “Let your attorney get ahold of our attorney.”

Mayor Lincoln said they are pulling one calls and the last time PA American was in there was ten years ago. He stated that is what PennDOT states and PA American is disputing it. Further he added the City has a great relationship with PA American and they have paved roads and so if PennDOT proves it is them, they will fix it and you won’t have to worry about it again. Mayor Lincoln stated they don’t want to put out costs if it is not them and they do not believe they were the last ones in that hole. He noted the City cannot force the hand and that is a State Road and all the City can do is wait for the outcome.

Councilman Topper added he lives a few blocks down the road and when trucks go by his pictures shake, noting if they were to hit a bump it would be bad.

Chuck Hubble, Treasurers for Tots by the Rotary Club for children in the Connellsville School District only.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Rotary Club and stated Councilman Keedy will be having a “Stuff the Bus” at It’s a Connellsville Christmas on December 5<sup>th</sup>. He added those toys will be combined with the Rotary’s Toys.

**CITY TREASURER’S REPORT:**

**CITY CONTROLLER’S REPORT:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 11-1-2020:** “To approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020 City Council Meeting.”

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

**Resolution No. 11-2-2020:** “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, Karpiak, Tzan and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

## **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report

Mayor Lincoln stated there are issues at the dog park. He noted people are not picking up after their dogs. He further added they are starting to review footage and if you are caught, you will see citations in the mail. Mayor Lincoln stated there is one individual who drives to the park, lets their dogs out to do their business and then gets back in his car to wait for the dogs to get done then drives away. He stated they are going to pay that person a visit. Mayor Lincoln stressed the City put a lot of time and effort into that park and there are poo stations in that park with bags, so please clean up after your dog.

**RESOLUTION No. 11-3-2020:** “To authorize and approve the Coronavirus Relief Fund Recipient Agreement with Fayette County; to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute such agreement on behalf of the City; and to authorize and direct City officials and employees to take any such actions as may be necessary to effectuate such agreement.”

Mayor Lincoln stated this is the \$75,000 from Fayette County for the CARES Act. He thanked all three commissioners stating it came in at the right time.

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

## **REMINDERS:**

Mayor Lincoln stated the City sends their thoughts and prayers to the family of long-time resident Ida Mae Alsop who was 106 years old and passed away last week.

Mayor Lincoln stated another resident, Francis Harvey, passed away at age 92. He added Mr. Harvey would walk from his home on Crawford all the way to Sheetz and pick up garbage along the way. Mayor Lincoln gave his thoughts and prayers to the family of Mr. Harvey. He added we should all be like Mr. Harvey and keep the City clean.

November 21<sup>st</sup>, Chemical Recycling at the Fayette Co. Fairgrounds, 9 AM – 1 PM, \$20, 724-430-4884

November 28<sup>th</sup>, Light Up Night

November 28<sup>th</sup>, Small Business Saturday, 12 Noon until 5 PM

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Connellsville Christmas

Christmas Market will be at the East Side Fire Station, 9 AM – 4 PM. To be a vendor, call 724-628-2020 Mayor Lincoln added they are following the Coronavirus to see if it will be safe for people to come into town for this. He added Santa will be making an appearance where kids will be able to see Santa with social distance in place. He announced the Fill a Responder Vehicle from 9 AM until 4 PM at East Side Fire Hall.

Mayor Lincoln announced there is a Facebook Page “It’s a Connellsville Christmas” and requested everyone like it and following, noting all information about that day is on that page.

#### **COUNCILMAN KEEDY:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-4-2020:** “To introduce Bill No. 3 of 2020: An ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the salaries payable by the City of Connellsville for the various positions enumerated herein for the fiscal year 2021, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith.”

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-5-2020:** “To introduce Bill No. 4 of 2020: An ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate and Residence Tax Rate for all City purposes for the fiscal year 2021, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith.”

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-6-2020:** “To introduce Bill No. 5 of 2020: An ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, showing the estimated receipts, expenditures and liabilities of every kind of all the funds for fiscal year 2021 with the balance of

unexpended appropriations as the basis for fixing the levy and tax rate for said fiscal year appropriating the various amounts shown as proposed expenditures herein for the expenses of the City for said fiscal year from the revenue available for said fiscal year for the departments, bureaus and specific purposes set forth herein, and the repealing of all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith.”

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

Councilman Keedy thanked everyone involved in the budget, noting there was a great team getting it done fast.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-7-2020:** “To authorize the City Clerk to contact financial institutions regarding a Tax Anticipation Note for 2021, if needed.”

Councilman Keedy added this needs to be done since anything can happen. He noted they do not anticipate needing to obtain a loan.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-8-2020:** "To contract out the City of Connellsville's payroll to Scarry and Associates, LLC at a cost of \$265.00 per month for 12 months; monies to be taken out of line item 402.330."

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

#### **COUNCILMAN KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-9-2020:** “To close North Arch Street, in front of City Hall, on November 28, 2020 from 4 PM until 6 PM for Light Up Night activities.”

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-10-2020:** “To close Peach Street to North Arch Street, in front of the Fire Station, on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM until 5 PM for the Christmas Market.”

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

Councilman Karpiak stated the City is updating their Digging Ordinance with penalties involved and people who are exempt.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-11-2020:** “To introduce Bill No. 6 of 2020: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE FURTHER AMENDING AND RESTATING ORDINANCE NO. 999, ENACTED JULY 10, 1967; ORDINANCE NO. 1110, ENACTED NOVEMBER 12, 1974; ORDINANCE NO. 1214, ENACTED DECEMBER 28, 1981; ORDINANCE NO. 1247, ENACTED OCTOBER 11, 1985; ORDINANCE NO. 1457, ENACTED FEBRUARY 13, 2007; AND ORDINANCE NO. 500, ENACTED JULY 18, 2013; THE CITY'S STREET CUTTING AND DIGGING ORDINANCES; EXEMPTING ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF OBTAINING A PERMIT TO DIG OR EXCAVATE CITY SIDEWALKS AND GRASSPLOTS AND INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.”

City Clerk Ohler explained this makes the utilities more responsible for their digs curb to curb.

Solicitor Witt explained this is a more comprehensive way and not a piece meal approach.

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

Mayor Lincoln asked if South Street will be paved this year.

City Clerk Ohler stated he has not heard from the water company yet.

Councilman Karpiak wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**COUNCILWOMAN TZAN:**

Councilwoman Tzan announced there will be no Tangled Up In Brew event or any other recreational event upcoming.

She reiterated Mayor Lincoln's earlier statement to clean up after your dog at the dog park.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Public Work's Department. He noted they are very busy and doing the leaf collection and doing a project with the Shade Tree Commission installing 16 new trees on East Francis Avenue. Mayor Lincoln added they did a lot of work at the dog park with Vernon Ohler, City Clerk and they partnered right along with Timmy Metzger on his Eagle Scout Project at that park. Mayor Lincoln further added if it wasn't for the guys in the Public Works Department and the City Clerk, the dog park would not be where it is right now.

## **COUNCILMAN TOPPER:**

### Health/Code Officer's Report

Councilman Topper stated Tom Currey, Code Officer has been busy and thanked him for all his hard work, noting that he has a thankless job.

Councilman Topper stated they are still trying to work out the issues with the cats and it takes time fielding things out.

### New Haven Hose Report

Bill Addis, New Haven Hose, was there to give the report.

Mayor Lincoln thanked them for their assistance during Trick or Treat. Mayor Lincoln also thanked the Police Auxiliary and Police Departments for their help.

Mayor Lincoln stated December 1<sup>st</sup> is giving Tuesday, then Black Friday and Cyber Monday. He stated they push to support non-profit groups. Mayor Lincoln stated if you are thankful for New Haven Hose and all they do, "Make a donation that day."

Mayor Lincoln announced West Penn Power is going to do their paving project by their plant on South Seventh Street beginning November 20<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>. He stated, "You will not be able to come off Eighth Street to go down Leisenring Avenue to Seventh Street. That will be closed. Marietta Avenue will be one-way. There will only be local traffic allow and no through traffic."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Community Ministries for putting together the Thanksgiving Day meal. He thanked Zia Maria's, Clubhouse Pizza and Fox Tavern and the Catholic Churches for stepping up to make all these meals at their cost.

Mayor Lincoln asked everyone to wear a mask while out in public and have a safe time. He added if you are not feeling well, stay home and don't take it to work.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-12-2020:** "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

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