

**CONNELLSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES – October 20, 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, Karpiak and Topper. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt. Councilwoman Tzan was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Led by Reverend Matt Goldsberry

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CITY TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Weaver reminded residents they must pay face value for School Taxes and there is no penalty. She also reminded residents her office does not accept cash and will only accept check or money order.

CITY CONTROLLER’S REPORT: Absent, report was available.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Connellsville Veteran’s Commission, Veteran’s Day Parade, November 11, 2020, 10:45 AM

Resolution No. 10-01-2020: “To close North and South side streets from First Street to Seventh Street off of West Crawford Avenue; West Crawford Avenue between Seventh and Eighth Streets to the corner of Crawford Avenue and North Pittsburgh Street; all of North Pittsburgh Street to Route 119 at the Veterans Monument on November 11, 2020 for the Veterans Day Parade; Pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief. Further granting permission to the Veteran’s Commission to use the City’s podium, PA System and chairs at the Veteran’s Monument.”

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

Mayor Lincoln stated he received correspondence from Mr. Zulka from The Association of Churches in Scottdale. They are asking other church organizations and citizens to ring bells for 5 minutes on November 25th at 6 PM as well as the Sunday after Christmas and New Year’s Day at 6 PM.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 10-02-2020: “To approve the minutes from the September 15, 2020 City Council Meeting.”

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

Resolution No. 10-03-2020: “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 and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. Councilwoman Tzan was absent. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report

Resolution No. 10-04-2020: “To accept the resignation of Teri Hirko Murphy from the Connellsville Housing Authority, effective immediately.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked her for serving on the board and noted she married and has moved out of state.

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

Resolution No. 10-05-2020: “To permit Roger Suter and Sons, Inc. permission to purchase two wreaths to be hung on the Officer McCray Robb Bridge during the Christmas season; further authorizing the Connellsville Public Works Department permission to hang the wreaths; pending review and approval of PennDOT.”

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

Resolution No. 10-06-2020: “WHEREAS, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to Communities for activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income families, aid in the elimination or prevention of slums or urban blight or other urgent community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has invited the City to submit an application in the amount of \$ 304,758.00 for financial assistance under its Fiscal Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has met all the citizens participation requirements relative to the Community Development Block Grant Program submission; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared a Three-Year Plan and Statement of Objectives as required by DCED; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared an application for Financial Assistance under the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program, said application having been duly reviewed and considered by the Council of the City of Connellsville.

1. That the Community Development Block Grant Program Application dated October 2020 is hereby in all respects approved. The City Clerk is hereby

directed to file a copy of said program and application with the minutes of this meeting.

2. That it is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of community development activities with Federal/State financial assistance under Title I, including those under Title VI relating to the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, creed, or national origin and other implementation of the program.
3. That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, is authorized to file an Application for Financial Assistance to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program and act as the authorized representative for the City.
4. That the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council is hereby authorized to provide such assurance and/or certification as may be required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and any supplemental or revised data which DCED may request in connection with its review of the application and including any revisions necessary to bring the application into conformity with DCED's final grant for the City."

Application available in Council folder with minutes.

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

Resolution No. 10-07-2020: "To accept and adopt the Redevelopment Authority's Four-Factor Analysis for Limited English Proficiency Persons, including but not limited to the Certification included therein, and to authorize and direct the Redevelopment Authority to implement such analysis and all related conclusions and certifications."

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

Announcement: vacant seats on City boards and authorities

Mayor Lincoln announced there are vacant seats of City Boards and Authorities. He noted they need to fill the Housing Authority seat now since it is vacant. He added another seat on that board expires in January. He read the list: Two seats on the Sewage Authority will expire in January, the Redevelopment Authority has a vacant position now and one expiring in January. Mayor Lincoln requested that anyone interested to be appointed to a board to please submit a letter of interest. He noted that the Municipal Authority is the only one you can be a "non-city" resident to serve on. He continued with his list: Library Board will have a vacant seat January 2021, Parks and Recreation has 3 seats available in January and the Senior Center Board has one vacant seat now and one in January. He again asked residents to submit a letter to the City Clerk by email or drop one off. Mayor Lincoln added that the boards meet only one time a month.

REMINDERS:

Wesley Health Center's Free Flu Shots, October 21st, 4 PM – 7 PM, and October 31st, 9 AM – Noon, 410 S. Pittsburgh Street

Food Distribution, October 22nd, Uniontown Mall, 10 AM – 11:30 AM and October 28th, C'ville Township VFD, 1 PM – 2:30 PM

Halloween Home Decorating Contest deadline is October 23rd at 4 PM, Sponsored by Cole B's

John Woodruff Race, October 24th at 10 AM, Visit the John Woodruff Club on Facebook

Zia Maria, Pechin and Somerset Trust, October 25th, 5 PM until 7 PM, Trick & Trunk Parade

Halloween Parade, October 27th at 7 PM, Sponsored by New Haven Hose, 724-626-1171

Trick or Treat, October 31st beginning 6 PM until 8 PM

Lions Club and Sysco Foods, Food Distribution, October 17th and 31st, 9 AM until Noon (or food gone), Connellsville High School parking lot

Payne AME Church's Election Day Dinner, November 3rd, 724-628-6193 for information/orders, There is no dine-in. They will bring food to your car.

Chili Fest, November 7th, 11 AM until 2 PM, \$10 tickets, 724-603-2093 for information

CAHS Patriots, Warriors Rock Concert, November 8th at 1 PM on Armstrong's local channel

CAHS Patriots, Wreaths Across America, Donations accepted until November 20th at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

COUNCILMAN KEEDY:

October 31st is the deadline for paying "Face Value" on taxes

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Fayette County Commissioner's for giving the City \$75,000 of their CARES Act money. He noted the money will go right to the Police Department to reimburse the money used and incurred during the pandemic.

COUNCILMAN KARPIAK:

Public Works Department
Leaf Pick-up Schedule

Councilman Karpiak stated the leaf schedule is on the City's website: www.Connellsville.US and to have them in a bag or sweep them to the curb.

Councilman Karpiak stated Public Works is ready for winter with salt and anti-skid. He added if residents have to park on even and odd sides of the road due to winter, it will be on the website and Facebook.

COUNCILWOMAN TZAN:

COUNCILMAN TOPPER, JR.

Health/Code Department Report

Fire Department Report

Councilman Topper stated the PA PUC has put out more protections with residents and businesses that are struggling to pay utilities. The link is on the City's website where more information is available.

Lieutenant Addis from New Haven Hose was present to read New Haven Hose's report for August and September 2020. He added the burn ban has been lifted.

Councilman Karpiak added the burning days: Monday through Friday, 1 PM – 9 PM and Saturday, 9 AM – 9 PM.

Mayor Lincoln added to not burn garbage and the City has an ordinance stating this.

Lieutenant Addis announced upcoming events at New Haven Hose.

Mayor Lincoln and Addis discussed the upcoming mandated communication system that will be required and how they will finance this. He noted it will be in two years.

Lieutenant Addis asked residents to check and replace their smoke detector batteries every six months.

Mayor Lincoln reminded residents to not plug space heaters into electrical cords.

Mayor Lincoln then announced September 15th, the City received a letter from PA American Water to make a "range" offer on the Connellsville Municipal Authority between 24 million and 43 million based on different factors. He then asked City Clerk Ohler to announce the Municipal Authority phone number.

City Clerk Ohler stated 724-626-1950.

Mayor Lincoln again stated if you have an issue with your sewage bill to call the Municipal Authority. He added it is not the City that handles that and we are not involved in that process.

Mayor Lincoln stated he has a resolution for the Housing Authority and he did receive the request late. He asked City Council if they want to read it tonight or wait a month.

Solicitor Witt stated it is fine to wait a month until everyone sees the letter.

Mayor Lincoln announced there are a lot of calls at City Hall about the rate increases by the Municipal Authority and noted City Council did not make those decisions. He further added that they had to make increases to pay for the cost of the "plant project".

Resolution No. 10-08-2020: “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 and Keedy and Mayor Lincoln. Councilwoman Tzan was absent. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.