

**Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
January 19, 2021**

This virtual 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:

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Effective Prevention in Connellsville Communities, Lance Winterhalter, Substance abuse, Request to put flyers in offices, hallways, etc. for aid with substance abuse to residents in the Connellsville Area School District.

Kerry Bell, Widmer Engineering spoke next:

Mr. Bell spoke regarding the need to repair the Public Works Building. He stated the roof is leaking, noting it is rubber and approximately 20 years old. He added they are looking to have it replaced and to get that done there are two vents on the roof that need removed and new exhausts put in. Bell stated he would get a couple quotes from HVAC people because that is under the bidding threshold. He added the roof itself would be over the bidding threshold and that it would be metal on the arched curve of the building. Bell stated he would do an alternate bid on the flat roof towers on either side and get the cost of what it would be to have those thrust up and also a metal roof and then compare that to the cost of having those two flat parts spray-foamed like the fire hall recently had done. He stated the present roof is letting water in and would be a good use of funds.

Mayor Lincoln asked if it needs to be done immediately.

Bell answered he doesn't feel it is an emergency, but there are a few rips in the roof that are letting in water but not in immediate danger of a catastrophe. He noted this is an item that needs taken care of eventually.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if a temporary seal can be put on the roof to stop the water until we get the bids and project started.

Bell answered he was not on the roof to see first hand but did see the water leaking into the inside of the building. He noted it is getting in at the curved round part of the building, around the vent stack and back in the flat tower office area. Bell stated he would have to get on the roof to see if it can be temporarily fixed. He added to put a metal roof on it at a reasonable price is not a bad idea.

Councilman Karpiak stated the last time someone looked at the roof they stated it was in such a bad way that it had to be fixed from the inside. He stated it won't fall down, but would like it fixed within the next few months or so. He also stated he would like the metal roof and even pitch up the flat parts and put metal on.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Mr. Bell and stated he hopes they can approve bids at the February meeting.

Mr. Bell questioned Solicitor Witt if it would have to be prevailing wage if it is coming out of City funding.

Solicitor Witt's voice did not come through.

Councilman Karpiak stated his understanding is that it is not prevailing wage.

City Clerk Ohler asked if the City needs to have Widmer draw up specs and bid forms by resolution. He then added he would text Solicitor Witt for a response.

Engineer Bell exited the meeting.

Mayor Lincoln stated they will move on with the meeting until Solicitor Witt comes back to the meeting.

Solicitor Witt came back to the meeting and answered if it is the City's funds, it is not subject to prevailing wage thresholds and Council has to look at what the actual amount ends up being. Because it is not Federal or State funds and it is City funds, if it is under a certain amount, it does not have to be prevailing wage. He added they have to get a sense of what the cost will be.

City Clerk Ohler questioned if Council needs to pass a resolution for Widmer to move forward with bids so it could be put out at the next meeting. He added it will be over the threshold.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if they are going to transfer money from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Account and if this is being approved tonight.

City Clerk Ohler answered yes to both.

Solicitor Witt dropped from the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 1-2-2021: "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.

Solicitor Witt re-entered the meeting and stated there would need to be a resolution by vote to put the roof out for bid. He noted it cannot be added to the agenda, given the new requirements

for the Sunshine Act and the public would not have the ability to participate. Solicitor Witt stated Council would have to hold a special meeting for that or wait until next City Council Meeting.

Resolution No. 1-1-2021: “To approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020 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.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report for November and December 2020

Resolution No. 1-3-2021: “To sign and enter into the Municipal Automobile Theft/Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Intergovernmental Agreement, retroactively with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and to authorize and direct the Mayor, City Clerk and Solicitor to execute such agreement on behalf of the City of Connellsville for 2020-2021.”

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.

Resolution No. 1-4-2021: “To close Meadow Lane from Crawford Avenue to Orchard Alley each Sunday in June, July and August 2021 from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM for the Lions Club’s Summer Concert Series; pending review and approval of 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.

Mayor Lincoln stated Council will fill seats in the Housing Authority. He noted one will be to re-appoint Bill Hughes and the other to fill the seat due to Charles Mills passing away.

Resolution No. 1-5-2021: “To appoint Bill Hughes to the Connellsville Housing Authority; term to expire the first Monday in January 2026.”

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. 1-6-2021: “To appoint Tom Severin to the Connellsville Housing Authority to fill the vacant seat; term to expire the first Monday in January 2025.”

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 stated the next two are for the Connellsville Municipal Authority. He added that both candidates are currently members of the board and submitted letters to be re-appointed.

Resolution No. 1-7-2021: “To appoint Rod Gunderson to the Connellsville Municipal Authority; term to expire the first Monday in January 2026.”

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. 1-8-2021: “To appoint Bob McDowell to the Connellsville Municipal Authority; term to expire the first Monday in January 2025.”

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 stated next there was a letter to be re-appointed to the Zoning Board.

Resolution No. 1-9-2021: “To appoint Carl Ritenour to the Connellsville Zoning Hearing Board; term to expire the first Monday in January 2026.”

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 stated they received a letter to be re-appointed to the Library Board.

Resolution No. 1-10-2021: “To appoint Dave Petrone to the Carnegie Library Board, term to expire December 2024.”

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 stated there are two appointments to the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority. He added that one is to re-appoint Joe Mancuso.

City Clerk Ohler questioned Solicitor Witt, since the second letter was received late after the posting, can it still be put on?

Solicitor Witt stated if it was on the agenda then yes, but if it was not, then technically that should be held.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if that is what the Four-Day Resolution Rule is for.

Solicitor Witt stated that it is not a Four-Day Resolution Rule issue, it is a Sunshine Act issue. He noted that the public is not able to be physically present and comment. He added they have to be able to be able to provide comment to the City by email or letter or calling it in before the meeting based on what they know is on the agenda that has been publicly posted. Solicitor Witt explained these are new procedures for virtual meetings. He further added that if it was a normal meeting, then there would be no problem.

Mayor Lincoln stated he will then read only the re-appointment and fill the vacancy at the February Meeting.

Resolution No. 1-11-2021: “To appoint Joe Mancuso to the Redevelopment Authority Board, term to expire the first Monday in January 2026.”

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:

Mayor Lincoln announced March 13th will be the annual Heart to Hope Telethon for the Connellsville Area Community Ministries and it will be at the Community Center this year. He added they made amazing renovations to the building including the bathrooms and gym. Mayor Lincoln stated they set to raise \$35,000 this year.

KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy stated he received a letter from the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to abate the taxes on Pittsburgh Street.

Resolution No. 1-12-2021: “To abate and exonerate the City Treasurer from collecting 2021 Real Estate Taxes on a City owned property, which shall be exempt from 2021 City Real Estate Taxes, known and located as follows: 328 North Pittsburgh Street, Parcel ID 05-06-0308, \$309.13.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this is the property that was just demolished.

City Clerk Ohler answered it is on the corner of North Alley and North Pittsburgh Street.

Solicitor Witt replied that is correct. He further explained that when the property was donated to the City, it only was extinguished for the prior year taxes so the current year taxes for the City had already been issued. Solicitor Witt stated this will clear out the current year taxes that would otherwise be owed to the City.

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. 1-13-2021: “That proper authorization is given to pay the following expenditures for each and every month for the calendar year 2021: All public utilities, employee benefit premiums; traffic control under \$500.00; police vehicle monthly leases; collection fees from Southwest Regional Tax Bureau; Culligan Water; UniFirst carpets; Pitney Bowes postage; premiums for workmen’s compensation, liability and bonds; gasoline and diesel fuel; animal control; legal advertisements; all contracted maintenance agreements; and monthly retainer fees.”

Councilman Keedy explained this gives authorization to pay monthly bills.

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. 1-14-2021: "To open a Capital Improvement Account at Mid Penn Bank."

Mayor Lincoln questioned if they called around for interest rates.

City Clerk Ohler stated there was a .3% difference and Mid Penn Bank had the best rate.

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. 1-15-2021: "To designate Director of Accounts and Finance Ethan Keedy, City Controller Bruce Witt, City Treasurer Marilyn Weaver as signatories on the Capital Improvement Account."

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. 1-16-2021: "To transfer \$100,000 from the Somerset Trust Investment Account to the Mid Penn Capital Improvement Account."

Mayor Lincoln questioned if there are projects beside fixing the roof at the Public Works Building that are in the works.

City Clerk Ohler answered the roof, the side of the wall on the building and a new door.

Councilwoman Tzan stated new carpet at City Hall.

City Clerk Ohler added painting and possibly go in with the Senior Center Account and pay 50/50 on LED lighting. He noted there is something at Yough Park as well and buildings are in dire need.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the lights at City Hall will be replaced since they are old.

City Clerk Ohler stated he will get bids on those. He added that doing things this way gives them flexibility on how they do it and what they spend.

Mayor Lincoln asked if the HVAC at City Hall will be in this.

City Clerk Ohler answered not with this amount of money, but down the road definitely.

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 thanked everyone noting it has been along time since that kind of money could be transferred. He added everyone has done a great job in the City.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak asked residents to please use the odd and even parking on snow days, noting it would make it so much easier to plow narrow streets.

Resolution No. 1-17-2021: “To submit a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Cooperative Purchasing Program known as CO STARS enabling the City of Connellsville to participate in the Department of General Services statewide contract for sodium chloride for the August 2021 – July 2022 season.”

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 if there was a large stock pile.

Councilman Karpiak answered they cut back the past couple of years with usage. He noted they have plenty at this time.

Councilman Karpiak wished everyone a Happy New Year.

TZAN:

Resolution No. 1-18-2021: “To appoint Kerry Bell to the Connellsville Recreation Board; term to expire the first Monday in January 2026.”

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.

Councilwoman Tzan thanked Kerry Bell for everything he has done for the Recreation Board and the City. She noted he is a great asset for the City to have.

Mayor Lincoln announced that the City is getting a new Laurel Highlands Visitor Center. He added it will be in the concession stand at the Yough River Park. He noted this will be a nice boost for the City because it will be staffed with local ambassadors who will help guide people on where to go. Mayor Lincoln thanked Councilwoman Tzan, City Clerk Ohler and Ron Haggerty from the Braddock’s Fish Club for their work towards making this center happen. He stated Braddock’s is already in the concession stand selling food for their organization. Mayor Lincoln added Mr. Haggerty is the one who got the County Commissioners on board to push for this to be at Yough Park. He thanked Mr. Haggerty, the County Commissioners and Ann from the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau for meeting up and seeing the vision. He also noted that this is going to help even the small business owners in town. He explained they can display a rack card in the visitor’s center for free and noted to reach out to Downtown Connellsville to be put on the list. Mayor Lincoln stated Laurel Highlands is paying to renovate the room in the center and Youghiogheny Glass will be displaying their glass in the center. Mayor Lincoln thanked everyone and noted this is a big deal and they will open in April and go until October 31st. He announced anyone wanting to work in the center to reach out to the Laurel Highlands Visitors Center.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report
New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper stated earlier there was a structure fire off East Crawford Avenue. He gave a shout out to everyone who responded, noting it was a duplex and difficult fire with the house next to it involved. He thanked everyone involved including all the assisting departments.

Resolution No.1-19-2021: “To appoint Dr. Richard Tiberio to the Connellsville Board of Health; term to expire the first Monday in January 2022.”

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 Topper thanked Dr. Tiberio and noted he is a great person to join the board.

Mayor Lincoln stated he hopes Council can meet in person in February. He added he is hopeful COVID does not get worse and people will begin getting the vaccine and asked everyone to stay safe.

Resolution No. 1-20-2021: “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.