

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
MAY 17, 2022

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:00 PM. Attending this meeting was Mayor Lincoln, Council members Karpiak, Keedy, Topper and Tiberio. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Led by Pastor Goldsberry

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frank Jacobyansky, Recreation Board President: He noted cleanup day in the city went well and thanked all the students, Public Works, Vernon Ohler the City Clerk, the Garden Club, Adolphe Village and Penn DOT. He then announced the Recreation Board put new fencing and a gate at the south side playground. He announced upcoming events such as the River Rally, bird house building, Red White and Boom Event – gave a “shout out” to Ethan Keedy for organizing the event. He addressed the Bi-Laws of the Recreation Board stating the board is to have students and there are two at the meeting this evening. Mr. Jacobyansky announced Mr. Bob Renze is the liaison between the Recreation Board and the school district and was the one who got the students involved in taking part of the Recreation Board. He then addressed the Boy Scouts that want to improve East Park. He added the board gave the students passive permission to go ahead with the project. Mr. Jacobyansky then added there are two other students in the audience that are non-voting members of the Recreation Board and have attended three meetings so far and have been very helpful in ideas. He stated these students came up with the idea of Friends Day at one of the parks which the Recreation Board gave them permission to do and the board applied for funding through a Rotary Grant to sponsor this with City Council’s permission. Mr. Jacobyansky asked that the girls, Alexandria Huffman and Allory Moore speak about the Friends Day at the park.

Alexandria Huffman spoke about Friends Day at East Park. She explained there is a program in which the students with special needs can interact with other students in the summer outside of school. She added there are students in the school that are interested in helping out. She announced the activities as coloring, kickball, cornhole, chalk, obstacle course, bubbles, painting rocks and food. She added the event is June 26th.

Next to speak was David and Thomas Hutchinson concerning their Eagle Scout Project. Thomas Hutchinson, East Park Carousel Eagle Scout Project: Refurbish the carousel area which would involve having the carousel welded to repair damages, painting the carousel, pressure washing the stone wall surrounding the carousel, and laying a surface material around the carousel where it gets muddy every time it rains. This would require the use of water and possibly electricity in the park. He is currently still looking for someone to weld.

David Hutchinson, East Park Fence Eagle Scout Project: Mend and stain the fence that runs along the creek.

Mayor Lincoln stated he appreciates them and all of the Eagle Scout projects that the city has benefited from. He asked the City Clerk to reach out to Mr. Nordic Shreve at the career center and see if they can help with the welding. The mayor noted there is water and electric for them to use at the park in the area they need.

Pastor Matt Goldsberry spoke about the Rotary Club's Golf Tournament this past Friday. He added Max House heads this tournament and over \$350,000 has been raised for scholarships, which is the largest in the school district. He stated there will be ten scholarships of around \$2,000 each going out from this year including two to the career center.

Pastor Matt Goldsberry then thanked the Lions Club for their Rabies vaccination and noted a lot of people came out for that.

Pastor Matt Goldsberry then spoke about Mayor Lincoln's event Saturday night and added the change in the city has been great. He added there is always good going on, including the Garden Club out today.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mayor Lincoln added that if you are a business owner, you need to have a Business License which is \$30 a year. He added the city provides you with 24/7 police, 24/7 fire department, 24/7 Fayette EMS and street service. He added the city provides a lot for the \$30, adding he saw the list of businesses that are open and operating yet have to pay the \$30 fee.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Read by Bill Addis

Mayor Lincoln read the Eagle Scout Project resolution.

Resolution No.: 5-4-2022: "To amend the agenda to address the proposal presented to the City Council within the last twenty-four hours and which does not require my expenditure of City Funds or the entering or approval of any agreement or contract and to approve the Eagle Scout Projects of Thomas Hutchinson and David Hutchinson in East Park, as presented."

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

Mayor Lincoln reminded the Hutchinson brothers that the City Clerk will help find them a welder and asked that this be put in the paper that a welder is needed to help with the project.

CORRESPONDENCE:

American Legion Post #301, request for Poppy Day on Saturday, May 21, 2022

Resolution No.: 5-1-2022: “To grant permission to the American Legion Post #301 to hold their annual Poppy Day on Saturday, May 21, 2022.”

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No.: 5-2-2022: “To approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 City Council Meeting.”

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

Resolution No.: 5-3-2022: “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 Karpiak, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln stated he is happy the two officers have returned to duty. He added they received his letter that he will be retiring with his last day being August 1, 2022 after 23 years with the city.

Councilman Karpiak questioned Chief Hammerle about people walking down the street “loaded not on alcohol”. He added they are getting into the grocery store. He stated there are new couples walking from the west side to this side of the bridge. Mr. Karpiak stated he thinks this may be the City’s new homeless population and asked if there is any new progress being made on that and have they been caught under the influence?

Chief Hammerle added there have been quite a few caught.

Mayor Lincoln stated he feels what the issue is that when they get caught and they are on meth, they can only be held in the jail cell for six hours, but when you are on meth you can be high for 72 hours. He added they are being released back into the public and are still high causing them to be arrested again. Mayor Lincoln added this is where the State needs to change the laws. He added that meth and heroin are a crisis.

Chief Hammerle asked Councilman Karpiak to call the police the next time he sees that and they will respond and react. He added they had many meeting about the homeless and he wishes they had somewhere to put them.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if anything worked out the meetings they have had.

Mayor Lincoln stated there was grant money they were looking into to in order to build a drop-in center. He added they are actually homeless, so it is a different thing.

Chief Hammerle stated not all of them are homeless and some of the people they see have homes, families and are out choosing to do what they do. He noted a lot of the people are taken to shelters and abuse their privileges there, don't follow the rules and then are not permitted to come back. He added some of these people, their families are done with them due to multiple chances and not following their rules either. He stated that usually when you call the shelters, there are no beds available.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if someone sees a person high, do they call 911 or City Hall.

Chief Hammerle answered that everyone needs to call 911 to generate an incident report. He added they will still answer calls if someone calls City Hall, but the response time becomes longer that way.

Councilman Topper questioned if all the cameras at the parks still working.

Hammerle answered they should be.

Councilman Topper reminded residents that when you are at the parks, they are monitoring the cameras.

Mayor Lincoln added that Janine Brooks is retiring June 1, 2022. He stated that he will present to her a proclamation at her retirement party in June. Mayor Lincoln read her proclamation:

JANINE BROOKS



RETIREMENT: APRIL 1, 1977 – JUNE 1, 2022



Janine Brooks was born in Connellsville on May 2, 1957 to Marie Carmella Mongell Rozell and Ronald Ray Rozell.

After graduating from Geibel Catholic High School with the class of 1975, Janine worked at Connellsville Corporation before being hired by the City of Connellsville in March of 1977.

Janine's first day of work in the Connellsville Police Department was April 1, 1977. She worked under the direction of Police Chief Nicholas Stasia and Mayor John T. Shaw.

Janine has served under the following Mayors during her years of employment: John T. Shaw, James K. Wagner, Ronald J. Haggerty, Thomas E. Duncan, Casimir P. Zabela, Judy D. Reed, Charles W. Mathews and Greg Lincoln.

Janine has also worked under the following Police Chiefs: Nicholas Stasia, Walter Weimer, Charles B. Noel, Charles W. Mathews, Steven Cooper, James Bielecki, Edward McSheffery, James Capitos and William Hammerle.

Janine was the first person to hold the position of Police Secretary, thus creating and perfecting this position for the Police Department. She also assisted the Connellsville Police Officers Association through the years with all of their fundraisers and events.

Janine is married to Richard Brooks and together they have two sons, Kristopher Brooks and Blaine Brooks. Janine and Rick have made the City of Connellsville their home.

The City of Connellsville would like to thank and honor Janine Brooks for her 45 plus years of service and dedication to the City of Connellsville and its citizens. We wish Janine Brooks a long and happy retirement.

Mayor Greg Lincoln

Mayor Lincoln stated this is an amazing career. He added it doesn't matter what is going on in the city or what she is doing, "when something happens that is police related, she drops what she is doing and comes in to help and we appreciated her so much and everything that she has done in her 45 years."

Hammerle stated as long as she has been here, she has been the glue that held the department together. He added many thanks go out to Janine and he wishes that she would be here to accept the honors, but with the retirement party coming up, he knows that she will be very appreciative of them.

Mayor Lincoln questioned how the new police secretary is doing.

Chief Hammerle stated she is doing very well and adjusting and learning quickly. He added it is working out ok so far.

Councilman Topper added what is great about Janine is that she retired and joined the Recreation Board as a volunteer, noting that she is still giving back.

Mayor Lincoln added she loves the City of Connellsville and is a very big asset.

Resolution No.: 5-5-2022: “To donate \$80 to New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department for two American Flags to be displayed at City Hall on eight holidays. Money to be taken from line item 409.266.”

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

Resolution No.: 5-6 -2022: “To close Water Street from Fairview Avenue to West Peach Street starting at 8 PM until 11 PM for Fireworks on July 2, 2022 with a rain date of July 3, 2022, upon approval from the Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

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

Resolution No.: 5-7-2022: “To accept the bid of \$1,950.00 for the 2008 Police Ford Explorer from Ray Wilhelm on Municibid.”

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

Resolution No.: 5-8-2022: “BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that the Mayor of the City of Connellsville be authorized and directed to sign the York Avenue Bridge Project Agreement on its behalf.”

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

Mayor Lincoln stated that if anyone says there is nothing to do in the City of Connellsville, please listen up.

REMINDERS:

PE In the Park, healthpekids@gmail.com , June 13th–18th, 22nd–25th, July 11th–14th, 18th–21st and 25th–28th Monday through Thursday, East Park from 9 AM through 12 noon

May 21st, Connellsville Area Garden Club, Geraniums pick up date, visit them on Facebook for information, Deadline to pay is May 18th

May 30th, Memorial Day Parade, 10 AM, beginning the west side to the war memorial

June 3rd, 4th and 5th, Yough River Rally, General Braddock's Fish Club, duck race, anything that floats, tug of war, pageant, music, food and more. Visit: The Yough River Rally on Facebook for information. Mayor Lincoln stated they are in need of teams for the tug of war.

June 11th, Pride Festival at Yough Park, 11 AM – 4 PM

Lions Square Free Concerts, 7 PM – 9 PM: June 5th - The Del Sols, June 12th – Echoes, June 26th – The Wally Gingers Orchestra. Visit Connellsville Lions Club on Facebook for the season schedule

June 11th, Bird House Building, East Park, information: Connellsville rec board on Facebook

June 18th, Juneteenth, East Side Fire Hall, 11 AM – 4 PM

June 18th, Yough River Cleanup, Mountain Watershed Association, Yough Park, 9 AM – 2 PM

June 18th, Hard to Recycle Event, Uniontown, 9 AM – 1 PM

June 25th – 11 AM – 5 PM, 26th – Noon – 5 PM, Braddock's Crossing, Yough Park,

June 26th, Friends Day, East Park, information: Connellsville rec board on Facebook

July 2nd, Red White and Boom Festival with fireworks, 2 PM – 10 PM (rain date July 3rd)

July 6th, Woodruff Race

July 15th, 22nd and 29th and August 5th, Reading program, East Park, 10 AM – 1 PM

July 23rd, Croquet Tournament, East Park, information: Connellsville rec board on Facebook

July 23rd, Adopt a Block Party, Yough Park, 1 PM – 6 PM, World Christian Outreach

KEEDY:

KARPIAK:

Health/Code Officer's Report

Councilman Karpiak stated for residents to cut their grass. He added if you don't cut your grass, the city will show up. He stated between high grass and garbage in the yard, you will look like you are engulfed in poverty. He stressed to use garbage cans for your garbage with a lid.

Resolution No.: 5-9-2022: "To introduce Bill No. 3 of 2022: **AMENDING SECTION I OF ORDINANCE NO. 1556 FOR THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.**"

Mayor Lincoln said this will improve the Health Officer's ability to enforce code.

Councilman Topper stated this will give them the shortest amount of time to enforce cutting grass. He added this will allow the city to ticket someone as opposed to going through all the hoops they go through now. He clarified that instead of letters and court dates, you will now get a ticket like a parking ticket. He added the fees are set in the ordinance.

City Clerk noted this will crack down on habitual offenders.

Councilwoman Tiberio asked who they pay the fine to.

Councilman Topper answered the Tax Office.

Solicitor Witt added that if they do not pay, there will be a citation and the ticket will be turned over to collections.

Councilman Topper stated there will be appeals that if someone feels that they have been wrongfully ticketed, they can go through the Health Board.

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

New Haven Hose Report: by Bill Addis

Mr. Addis stated there was around 155 participants in the Neon Nights Race.

TOPPER:

Resolution No.: 5-10-2022: "To open bids received for the re-roofing of the Connellsville Public Works Garage."

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

There were two bids:
Neviah Pipe Bursting, LLC, \$64,966.00

Councilman Topper questioned the City's budget for the project.

City Clerk Ohler stated it is \$40,000.

The next bid is Blair Construction, \$91,100

Accepting the bid was tabled.

Councilman Topper stated since they are on roofs, he wants to discuss the East Park bandshell roof. He requested Widmer Engineering step up to the podium.

Steven Ebey from Widmer Engineering spoke and Kerry Bell was present.

Ebey stated they went over to East Park bandshell with Bob from Neviah and both submitted a report that they agreed on. He added with the plywood and insulation that they can't verify it was put in there, noting it drew moisture and the plywood gave out. He added the other sections look the same. Ebey stated the people involved in putting up the old roof is no longer around. He added that he knows their name is under this and he has since too over the company. He added he feels that he and Kerry Bell have done great for the city since then. He added that they will stand behind it and everyone who works at Widmer's pretty much all live in the city limits. Ebey added they want to work with the city on this.

Mayor Lincoln questioned the cost to repair the roof.

Councilman Topper \$50,000 to \$55,000.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the Redevelopment Authority is looking into refinancing this and where is the money coming from.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned Steve Ebey from Widmer if he has insurance that covers his employees during that time.

Ebey replied that those employees have passed away. He added he will have to bring his boss into that question.

Councilwoman Tiberio added that is one avenue and she questioned the City's insurance.

City Clerk Ohler answered the City insurance denied it.

Councilwoman Tiberio asked if City Clerk Ohler could push a bit tougher.

Mayor Lincoln stated that would be the City Solicitor's job.

Solicitor Witt stated that some of this discussion is Executive Session and they can submit a claim to see what they could potentially recoup on behalf of the city wouldn't be a bad idea because it does represent an expense. He added the Redevelopment Authority is looking to find funds for this repair.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if council should go into Executive Session right now since everyone is here and it is an immediate issue that needs addressed.

Councilman Topper added there is a section of the band shell that is not under the roof.

Solicitor Witt stated someone needs to make a motion for Executive Session.

Councilman Karpiak questioned Steve Ebey from Widmer Engineering about the insulation drawing moisture and what kind of insulation was it.

Ebey answered when you put in a rubber roof, there is an insulation barrier between that and the plywood – because the rubber is getting hot, so that insulation keeps that heat above the plywood and right now the rubber is getting the plywood hot and its on a concert slab so it is drawing moisture up to that rubber.

Vernon Ohler answered there is not insulation.

Ebey stated they had flashlights that they could look up in the gaps in the existing roof and the plywood was missing and the part that collapsed, everything was on the ground and we didn't see any insulation there.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if there was any venting.

Ebey answered there was no venting because it is a flat roof and you can't vent it that way.

Councilman Topper voted to go into Executive Session.

Solicitor Witt stated council will need to have a second and vote on it.

Councilwoman Tiberio seconded the motion and City Council agreed.

Executive Session began at 7:08 PM and reconvened at 7:27 PM.

Mayor Lincoln stated City Clerk Ohler will call Steve Ebey from Widmer's and they will discuss what the plan will be.

Resolution No.: 5-11-2022: "To grant permission to Alexandra Huffman, Arley Wilson and Malory Moore, in conjunction with the Connellsville Recreation Board, use of East Park for "Connellsville Friends Day" event on June 26, 2022."

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

Councilman Topper stated he was down Yough Park today and the new outlet are in along the riverside of the park and they are hoping to update some of the lights. He added the coffee shop should be open this weekend. He stated there are port a johns right now at the park until water line issues are resolved.

Councilman Topper thanked Aaron Zolbrod for the basketball camp he is having at Woodruff Park, adding it is a great, free camp for people. He noted that Aaron has always been a big contributor to the city. He asked residents to get their kids signed up for PE in the Park since that will be starting as well.

TIBERIO:

Public Works Report

Councilwoman Tiberio stated the Public Works Department got their new street sweeper.

Councilwoman Tiberio read an MS4 announcement (announcement is not in council folder/not given)

Resolution No.: 5-12-2022: "To open bids received for the 2022 Paving Project."

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

City Clerk Ohler stated there is \$160,000 budgeted and he would like to use the remainder for the bridge.

John D. Caruso, Inc., \$121,580
Redstone Excavating LLC, \$114,210
El Grande Industries, \$135,270
Derry Construction Co., Inc., \$120,377.50
Morgan Excavating, LP, \$118,363.70

Resolution No.: 5-13-2022: "To accept the bid of Redstone Excavating in the amount of \$114,210.00 for the 2022 Paving Project; pending review and approval of City Clerk, City Solicitor and Widmer Engineering."

Mayor Lincoln asked the timeline for them to begin once awarded the bid.

Kerry Bell, Widmer Engineering, replied they will be given 60-day notice to proceed.

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

Resolution No.: 5-14-2022: "To hire Nevaeh Pipe Bursting, LLC to perform all necessary grouting of the Baldwin Avenue Bridge approach abutment at a price of \$9,989.00. Monet to be taken out of the City's Liquid Fuels Account."

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

Resolution No.: 5-15-2022: "That this meeting of the City Council does hereby adjourn."

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