

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
JULY 19, 2022

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Led by Pastor John Friend

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frank Jacobyansky, Recreation Board President: Discussed the Recreation Board funds. He noted the board wants to begin using the funds to improve the City parks such as the fencing at Second Ward Playground. He stated the quote to put all new fencing in was \$30,000. He added two phases would be \$14,000 this year. Dr. Jacobyansky asked City Council to vote on it at the next City Council Meeting. He clarified this park fence needs attention along with other items in that park including a picnic table.

Mayor Lincoln stated there is no picnic table there due to children using the previous table to jump onto the roof. He added they ruined it for everyone.

Dr. Jacobyansky stated he will get Council the information on the fence in time for the next City Council Meeting. He stated he spoke with someone who wants to do a Wellness on the Yough Event on October 8th. He added the Recreation Board thinks it is a good idea and gave approval to this. He noted they do not look at this as a fundraiser, but an event that benefits the city and gives the people something to do.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this is a Recreation Board event and if they are paying to use the park.

Dr. Jacobyansky answered "The issue there is, if the Recreation Board sponsors it, any profit they have is given to the Recreation Board. If they don't go through the Recreation Board and give us the profit, they will have to pay for the park and their liability insurance, etc. I spoke with Alaina Breakiron and she is going to try and run it." He noted it is not finalized yet.

Mayor Lincoln clarified that anyone who uses the park and if it is not City affiliated, must pay to use the park. He stated there is maintenance, workers to clean the parks, power, water and a lot of things. He added there is no money going to the Recreation Board from the budget and the rentals is what goes back to the Recreation to maintain them. Mayor Lincoln stated Wellness on the Yough is a wonderful thing, but someone can't get it for free. He noted that this weekend is Adopt a Block for the citizens and they paid for the pavilion. He stated he does not want in a situation where someone states that someone got it for free when we have been paying for it.

Dr. Jacobyansky noted that Braddock's was having an event a week before the Recreation Board's big event "Tangled up In Brew". He added that there is some concern that he may take some of the sponsors that the Recreation Board uses for their event. He noted Mr. Haggerty stated he would get a list of sponsors the Recreation Board uses and promised not to contact those sponsors.

He then discussed the Eagle Scouts are almost done with their project of the carrousel and the Croquet Tournament at East Park is this weekend.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: By Marily Weaver, City Treasurer

Tom Currey, Code Officer, stated the delinquent Business Licenses should be coming in soon since he was out the past few days notifying them to pay.

Councilman Keedy questioned if they are only collecting the current year or past years.

Treasurer Weaver answered they are only collecting the current year, noting they would have to collect many years past for a lot of businesses.

Mayor Lincoln stated they are still providing services to these businesses.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: By William Addis, City Controller

CORRESPONDENCE:

Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce, Requests: Use of East Side Fire Hall for Christmas Market and road closures for Christmas Parade on November 26, 2022

Mayor Lincoln stated he feels this will be a great event for the city and this is what the fire hall was renovated for.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned what the fee would be for the fire hall.

Mayor Lincoln stated he does not have an issue with them using it since it is an event for the City.

Solicitor Witt stated they need to evaluate what they want the rental fee to be. He added that other organizations that are not using it for the city would need to pay.

Resolution No. 7-1-2022: "To grant permission to the Connellsville Chamber of Commerce to use the East Side Fire Hall on Saturday, November 26, 2022 from 10 AM until 5:30 PM for a Christmas Market; Chamber representative to sign for the key at pick up and upon returning the key; further authorizing use of road barriers and trash cans as requested on the Utilization Form."

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

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Chamber for bringing the parade back.

Resolution No. 7-2-2022: “To close North Pittsburgh Street from 119 to West Crawford Avenue, West Crawford Avenue from North Pittsburgh Street to Eighth Street, Leisenring and Marietta for the Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Parade on November 26, 2022 at 5 PM; further authorizing use of road barriers and trash cans as requested on the Utilization Form; pending review and approval of Police Chief, Fire Chief and PennDOT.”

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.

Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce, Request to use Yough Park on November 19, 2022 for Christmas in the Park

Resolution No. 7-3-2022: “To grant permission to the Connellsville Chamber of Commerce to utilize the entire property at Yough Park on November 19, 2022 for Christmas in the Park; further authorizing use of trash cans and electric as requested on the Utilization Form.”

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 Volunteer Fire Department, Request for street closures on October 25, 2022 for the 113th Halloween Parade

Resolution No. 7-4-2022: “To close South Pittsburgh Street from Washington Avenue to Crawford Avenue and Crawford Avenue from South Pittsburgh Street to South Seventh Street on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 beginning 5 PM until 9 PM for the 113th Halloween Parade; pending review and approval of PennDOT, 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.

Moose Club, Request for use of the City’s parking lot on July 31, 2022 for a Moose event

Resolution No. 7-5-2022: “To grant permission to the Connellsville Moose to use the upper parking lot behind Connellsville Community Ministries on July 31, 2022 from 12 noon until 6 PM; further granting use of barricades as requested on the Utilization Form.”

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 the Ministries is not open on Saturdays now, so it won’t be a problem.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No.: 7-6-2022: “To accept the minutes from the June 21, 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.: 7-7-2022: “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 William Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln stated he was glad the employees at the Comfort Inn realized “something was off” and called the police in one incident. He then questioned Police Chief Hammerle about a drug bust.

Chief Hammerle stated there was a car chase that led to them capturing a wanted individual who had a large amount of heroin and cocaine on his possession. He added there was a car chase then a foot chase through a neighborhood when the arrest was made.

Mayor Lincoln added this person is a repeat offender and hopefully spends more time rehabilitating. He then questioned Hammerle about curfew and if there are any issues.

Chief Hammerle stated they had calls in South Connellsville, but not in the city.

Mayor Lincoln then questioned the trail head and Yough Park.

Chief Hammerle stated the daylight officers have been busy moving the homeless people with the tents. He added it is a continuing problem that they are pushing them into the township and then the State Police are having to deal with that.

Mayor Lincoln added they are being offered assistance by the city, but they are refusing to go to Uniontown, the only place that has assistance in Fayette County.

Hammerle added the homeless in the city is usually tied to drugs. He noted when they are offered assistance, they turn it down or not comply with house rules and get kicked out.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is hopeful that Fayette County received a Nine-Million Dollar settlement from the Opioid Lawsuit, so they will get around \$500,000 a year for the next 18 years. He added he is hoping some of that money can come here for a drop-in center so we can have resources to help with the homeless issue.

Chief Hammerle added that it would be nice if the city has a facility where they can be placed and not out in the public eye or in the parks or trailhead. He noted they are consistently pushing them out and subject to argument and thefts.

Mayor Lincoln stated he would like a drop-in where there are medical professionals one on one with them.

Chief Hammerle stated that is the goals, however they don't usually comply or go along with programs.

Mayor Lincoln then stated they are going to discuss bringing up a new hire to replace Sergeant Sherbinsky who is retiring in two weeks.

Resolution No.: 7-8-2022: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program, as part of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act [P.L. 116-136], and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program."

City Clerk Ohler stated this is for one of the projects for 12th Street.

Councilman Keedy questioned if there is a breakdown of the cost.

City Clerk Ohler answered yes and he sent it to all of council. He noted the only thing that wasn't on there was the administrative costs of the Redevelopment Authority.

Mayor Lincoln added the Redevelopment Authority stated not to go over \$500,000.00.

Councilman Keedy requested the breakdown be updated.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated Councilman Keedy noted it is a minimum of \$500,000.00. She questioned what exactly the Redevelopment Authority stated.

City Clerk Ohler stated he was told at least \$500,000.00.

Councilman Topper stated the Redevelopment Authority is not encouraging the City to go over that.

Councilman Keedy requested City Clerk Ohler send out a total of what we are applying for with Administration and everything included.

Mayor Lincoln stated that is in the first email.

City Clerk Ohler added that was sent minus the lighting.

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.: 7-9-2022: “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 Karpiak, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No.: 7-10-2022: “To hire Jeremy Molinaro as a patrolman for the Connellsville Police Department starting October 1, 2022. Wages and benefits to be determined by the bargaining agreement between the City and Connellsville Police Officer’s Association.”

Mayor Lincoln stated they have been going back and forth due to one officer going on short term disability and then retire and another now retiring and Janine retiring. He added the numbers were crunched and now the new hires are covered all but a couple thousand.

City Clerk Ohler answered all but two thousand and ninety dollars.

Mayor Lincoln questioned where that money would be taken.

City Clerk Ohler answered the General Fund.

Councilman Keedy questioned what the other costs associated with hiring are such as uniforms.

Chief Hammerle stated he thought they were in the black on that.

City Clerk Ohler answered no, it was actually a wash. He added he takes responsibility because he didn’t take uniforms into consideration.

Mayor Lincoln added the Highlands money is for that and nothing to do with the general fund?

Chief Hammerle added that is correct.

Councilman Keedy stated they are also going to have the added costs of the buyouts; it’s going to increase the salary of those officers which is going to increase the workers comp for the year. He noted

the city was given a rough estimate and now the salary will be over what they projected to the insurance company which is going to generate a higher...the police have the highest cost.

Mayor Lincoln questioned how it can be over when a policeman starts out at the lowest rate of around 80% and we were paying two sergeants?

Councilman Keedy answered they paid high for Sherbinsky's buy outs.

Mayor Lincoln answered that is a buy out and has nothing to do with that.

Councilman Keedy replied that counts as a pay though, so his pay will be higher.

City Clerk Ohler answered it will not because that money was budgeted. He added if they look at the chart that he sent to council, his buy out was part of his salary and broke down that way. He added there was not extra money in there. He added they were robbing Peter to pay Paul with the remaining salaries for 2022 budget year.

Councilman Keedy stated to pay for this was like 30 lines of an excel spreadsheet to still get up to a negative number. He added he is fine with hiring another officer but feels the start date should be January 1st when we start our new budget because that is not the only holes in the budget this year. He noted fuel is at 80% of the budget and gas and electric just jumped 20%. He noted the Senior Center is up \$700 from last month to this month. Councilman Keedy stated there are a lot of costs not determined yet and we are only halfway through the year. He clarified he is ok with hiring an officer tonight, but with a start date of January 1st of next year.

Mayor Lincoln added that is why the City has the American Recovery Act funds, because of loss of revenues. He added that is what that money is suppose to be for.

Councilman Keedy noted that is not a proper way to budget your budget.

Mayor Lincoln stated he understands and no one expected gas to be what it is right now but it is what it is and council is addressing it. He noted he is not for the police to be down a man and the Chief have to go work shifts. He stated that is what happens when you are not fully staffed. Mayor Lincoln stated he is not worried about \$2,000 because there is \$2,000 in the General Fund. He clarified this is just the Police Department and not what is being used for gas in the Public Works or New Haven Hose. He added "We are talking about the whole budget, not just the Police Department."

Councilman Keedy stated the whole budget is in trouble right now. He noted he is a financial person and loves numbers and the whole budget is in trouble right now. He stated they are at 28% of the real estate collection right now.

City Clerk Ohler stated they had a bad start from the county.

Councilman Keedy replied the city is paid up until April. He added they may get the \$120,000.00 by the end of the year, but they are still at 28% right now. He stated he is fine with hiring, but still believes the start date should be January 1st and that is his opinion. Councilman Keedy suggested there are other holes that are going to come up and by the end of the year, if they borrow from the American Rescue Plan it will be a one-time fix and the money will not last forever.

Councilman Topper added Public Safety is their primary goal as a governing body more than anything else to provide safety for the residents. He added that supersedes anything else. He noted they are facing, like other municipalities, rising costs. Councilman Topper stated he does want this officer to start as soon as possible as safety is their number one job and the officers are adequately staffed. He reminded council if one officer gets injured, they are back down in officers. He noted it is a difficult decision to make.

Councilman Keedy added there was 16 officers for two months.

Chief Hammerle noted there will be 16 officers for two months. He stated Sherbinsky's last day is the 29th of this month and officially August 1st. He explained that is two months he is down a guy and has vacations and an extra municipality to cover that gets a lot of calls. Hammerle explained that is why there are two extra officers, to cover that area. He reminded council they have their (South Connellsville) budget to cover that. He added if they are only \$2,000 in the hole, that money can come from the Highland's Fund. Hammerle noted he fits the officers with the Highland's monies and it does not come out of the City's budget.

Councilman Keedy questioned if he is already an officer.

Chief Hammerle replied that he has been an officer for about two to three years.

Councilman Keedy questioned if that will limit the training with the city.

Chief Hammerle answered he will be ready to hit the streets day one.

Councilman Keedy questioned how long do they typically train officers before they work a shift by themselves.

Chief Hammerle answered six months.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she looked at some numbers, per capita, and it is 1.8 to 2.5 per thousand people and that comes out to 16.5 officers. She questioned if that could be stretched out.

Councilman Topper stated he feels they can take the \$2,000 hit and still have concerns about the upcoming budget, noting it will be difficult.

Councilman Keedy added he does not want to borrow from the American Rescue Plan. He noted he does not want to take from the reserves to fill a hole that will not be solvent after two or three years. He stated it is a short-term fix that will set the city up for failure down the road.

Councilman Topper agreed, noting he is aware they had discussed using the ARP money to invest and make more money on it to grow and get through.

Councilman Karpiak stated that after the emails went back and forth, he was convinced that the \$2,000 was going to be made up and he doesn't have a problem with that. He stated he has a problem with reality of the budget, what is going to happen in the future here is going to be a hard thing. He added the other reality is the lawlessness that is increasing. Councilman Karpiak told Chief Hammerle his report is excellent. He announced he is all for starting the officer as soon as they can.

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

Councilman Keedy stated he wants it on record that if the resolution was January 1st, he would have voted yes.

Councilwoman Tiberio agreed.

Chief Hammerle reminded council that during the shooting, he has two officers that had to sit on light duty for three months. He added, who knows if a situation like that would arise again and trying to fill holes with sickness, vacation and such would be that much harder.

Resolution No.: 7-11-2022: "To adopt the updated Employee Policy and Procedures Manual for nonuniformed employees."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Solicitor Witt for updating the Manual so they can better manage the employees and he looks forward to using it.

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. 7-12-2022: "To pay John James the remainder of his sick time from June 20, 2022 through July 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.

REMINDERS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE: Connellsville.us

Reading Program at East Park, Pavilion #3, July 22nd, 29th and August 5th, 10 AM – 1 PM. If you are not preregistered, please show up at 9:30 AM

Stars Night out, special needs prom at New Haven Hose, July 23rd, 5 PM - 9 PM, \$5, Call Kelly Linko at 724-970-3609 to sign up or donate

Adopt A Block Party at Yough Park, 1 PM – 6 PM, Free food, praise & worship, dance, children's activities

Lions Club Concert Series: July 24th, Shelly McCombie Band and July 31st, The High Ryder Band and the final concert is August 7th, The Abilene Band. He added he believes that was rescheduled to August 21st.

KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy thanked the sponsors of the Red White and Boom Festival and volunteers from the Recreation Board along with Shelley and Councilwoman Tiberio walking down the street at midnight picking up trash with me is greatly appreciated. He thanked all the volunteers adding it could not have happened without them. Councilman Keedy stated it cost \$23,000 to put on that event. He noted there was about \$15,000 or \$16,000 in sponsorships for that day. He thanked Somerset Trust, Mid Penn Bank, Connellsville Counseling and C Harper, Brooks Camper, General Braddock's Fish Club. He stated without them, the festival would not have been possible.

He then discussed West Crawford Avenue and PA American Water. He noted he understands the project has to happen. He stated he was at a function sitting down and trying to enjoy a glass of Pepsi until someone comes up and says "What the blank is the city doing." Councilman Keedy stated he told them to call PennDOT because it is not the city. He then explained this past Thursday his staff texted him that there is water in the middle of Fourth Street, he called PA American Water and found it was reported and Thursday night when he went to work, there was still water on the street. He stated Friday morning there was someone from PA American water there and his tenant calls to inform him there will be no water for four or five hours. Councilman Keedy questioned where PA American was when it was called in on Thursday. His response was it has to be reported for PA American Water to look at and then dispatch someone out. He added this is the fifth time they are out because of PA Water and Columbia Gas's project, noting they have no water and cannot serve people. Councilman Keedy stated he went into work that night and his basement has two to three inches of water, so he goes outside and tells the man from PA American Water who responds with "Call your insurance company." He stated his insurance company stated it is not on them, it is on the water company. He explained he wanted the water cleaned up to prevent mold and added this project is a disaster and war zone and frustrating to a business owner.

Resolution No.: 7-13-2022: "To donate \$2,500.00 to Fayette EMS; funds to be taken from Capital Reserve."

Councilman Topper stated that he hopes everyone sees no one on council is getting rich from being there or driving corporate vehicles or wearing suits like big governments do. He added they are monitoring every dollar and it will be a tough budget season and he hopes everyone appreciates what they try to do there with trying to make the numbers work and keeping taxes as low as possible. He added he hopes people see the predicament they are in and not shocked in October when they are working on the budget.

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 Keedy asked everyone to look at the audit in their folders and see where they stand, adding if there are any questions to ask. He noted Clayton needed a few things adjusted and he and Vernon are working with Shanea on that, but overall was a good audit.

KARPIAK:

Health/Code Officer's Report

Tom Currey, Health, Code and Zoning Officer, noted residents need to keep their grass cut, have garbage cans with lids and the Quality-of-Life Ordinance will go into effect very soon meaning you will get tickets for violations such as grass, garbage cans, car and that type of scenario as opposed to getting a warning. He added there are new rounds of Covid going around, so be safe and cautious and Monkey Pox is in Allegheny County but none in Fayette that he is aware of.

New Haven Hose Report given by Fire Chief Layton

Chief Layton stated if New Haven gets a call to Yough River, they need to be sure the boat ramp is clear. He then questioned if the City or PA Fish Commission responsible to cleaning the boat ramp.

Mayor Lincoln stated it is the City's responsibility.

Chief Layton stated he wants to meet with council to address New Haven's not being able to back into the river.

City Clerk Ohler stated he is starting a grant through the Fish and Boat and will meet with them September 1st.

Chief Layton explained they have to back down to the left towards the beach then man handle it to get into the water.

Councilman Karpiak stated that is where the boat ramp should have been.

Chief Layton reminded council that every second counts in a rescue, so they need to back in and go.

Councilman Karpiak questioned if there is anyway, with the fluctuation of the river, to be able to have a dock. He added it would be a New Haven Dock with the boat in the river being guarded.

Mayor Lincoln stated the DEP probably wouldn't allow it.

Chief Layton stated they can sit down and talk and see what the grant encompasses.

City Clerk Ohler added ever since they fixed the bridge, they put the road out to the middle of the river and there has been issues at the ramp ever since.

Councilman Karpiak stated then they remove the concrete slabs that were steps that went in, noting that is the only way they are going to fix it again.

City Clerk Ohler stated he guarantees if they were there, they would be two feet deep because everything is washed out after that road went out.

Councilman Karpiak added you don't want to throw a shover full of stones there.

Chief Hammerle added it was a good thing New Haven had enough guys on the rescue call to lift the boat.

Chief Layton agreed and noted that man was struggling in the water with weights.

Chief Hammerle stated he had to yell for him to stop and stay in one spot because he was unfamiliar with our river and did not know where the holes were or see them along with having chest weighers on. He added that had he gone under, it would have ended differently.

Mayor Lincoln noted to Chief Layton, he knows there was two house fires four days of each other.

Resolution No.: 7-14-2022: "To extend the Refuse and Recycling Collection and Disposal contract, between the City of Connellsville and Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill, LLC beginning November 1, 2022 and ending October 21, 2023 at a monthly residential rate of \$19.00."

Mayor Lincoln questioned if there will be a change in the commercial dumpsters.

City Clerk Ohler stated all they gave the city was a change in residential.

Mayor Lincoln stated that he is completely against this resolution because for 31 months the lives of our secretary, our health code officer, our City Clerk and myself and Councilman Topper has been put through a lot every single week with complaints that are blaming the city for County Hauling's incompetence. He added every week it is a new excuse and today was the COVID excuse. He clarified he is not saying their employees are not sick because COVID is back again, he is saying they didn't pickup recycling today again. Mayor Lincoln noted the city wanted two-day recycling and they would only

pickup once a week claiming they would get it all then and they never have got it all in one week. He also noted for spring cleanup, they missed eight sections of our city and it was scheduled eight months in advance. He further noted they did not come back to get it, they left it until Tuesday causing residents to leave that stuff on their curb for five more days. Mayor Lincoln stated you do not reward bad behavior with a year contract extension because of a \$19 rate. He explained that Advanced Disposal and County Hauling are one now and they were the only two to bid on the city's contract.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned why residents are calling City Hall about their trash.

Mayor Lincoln answered residents call County, leave messages and their calls are not returned. He added when they get ahold of someone, they are told they will be out to get it and don't come back over and over again. He noted when they call City Hall and we get ahold of them, they come back for the garbage. He stated the City Clerk offered to go with them on the route to help them be more efficient and they said no. Mayor Lincoln stated this is a complete slap to the face. He noted he understands this is saving money but it is another year of four people dealing with the crap. Mayor Lincoln added Shelley gets screamed at and hung up on every single week.

Councilman Topper stated the only reason this is being considered is the low rate and trying to get one more year. He noted everyone is trying to come up with a different solution and this industry is like all the others with labor issues and cost of tires, gas and everything else. He stated they do have every excuse and some self-inflicted with their customer response that leads people to call here. He added it has been a tough the past few years dealing with this company. He added that Councilman Karpiak has to deal with it now. Councilman Topper stated this is a one-year, temporary solution to not see the rates double based on current fuel prices. He further explained council is trying to find a better way to do this before next year and make a permanent decision. He stated this is the only reason he is voting yes because they would be looking at a double rate. Councilman Topper added if they put it out for bid, residents could be paying in the \$30's and the service may not be any better.

Councilman Keedy agreed with Councilman Topper, adding County Hauling is not his favorite. He noted they were the only company bidding on the City's garbage contract, their service is poor but the alternative is paying more a month at a time when everything else is high. He noted they are trying to save money while they figure out what to do.

Councilman Karpiak stated he pays a lot of garbage bills and wants to see his garbage picked up. He added Councilman Topper is right, if council doesn't extend this contract, then it will double. He added this is not the first company that missed blocks, houses or neighborhoods repeatedly. He also stated the reason they are in this position is because of the delinquency rate causing the city to get a bad note. Councilman Karpiak added they need to make homeowners pay their garbage bill and landlords. He noted there is no reason the people of this city should take a beating like this because some people don't want to pay their bill. He noted there are ways to make people pay their bill, and it will happen.

Councilman Keedy questioned Solicitor Witt what will happen if commercial rates go up.

Solicitor Witt replied the city can notify them the rates are to remain the same as no notice was given.

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

TOPPER:

Resolution No.: 7-15-2022: “To grant permission to the Connellsville Recreation Board to utilize the entire property of East Park on Saturday, July 23, 2022 for their Croquet Tournament Event; further granting use of items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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.

Connellsville Festival Association and General Braddock’s Fish Club, Request to use Yough Park on September 24, 2022 for Rock on the Yough and Fishing Derby

Councilman Topper stated that he contacted the Fish Club and discussed the close proximity of their event to Tangled Up in Brew, the Recreation Board’s biggest fundraiser. We agreed to each have a list of sponsors and make this work. He noted council wants this to be a town that has something to do every weekend. Councilman Topper added he wants to ensure they are not going after the same funds.

Resolution No. 7-16-2022: “To grant permission to the Connellsville Festival Association and General Braddock’s Fish Club, upon a signed Agreement with the City of Connellsville and proof of Liability Insurance, to use Yough Park on September 24, 2022 for Rock on the Yough and a Fishing Derby; further authorizing use of items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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.

TIBERIO:

Councilwoman Tiberio noted the city should get a design of the bridge very soon. She added she is hopeful the project will begin next year.

Councilwoman Tiberio discussed the Wills Road wall, noting Widmer’s has been doing studies on the wall. She gave the preliminary report that goes from \$475,000 with a 15-year life expectancy and the second job is about \$825,000 with a 35-year life expectancy. She noted a total replacement is \$2,800,000 for 75 years.

Councilman Keedy questioned when this project needs to be done.

Kerry Bell, Widmer Engineer replied they recommend immediate action when the fund become available.

Mayor Lincoln questioned how can the city get access to the wall when someone owns the property adjacent to it.

Tom Currey, Code Officer, stated it is not being used in a residential manner at the current time. He added the City will need to get permission from them to use the property and maybe lease the property from them.

Public Works Report by Jimmy Bigam

Mr. Bigam stated he is looking into the street sweeper schedule and will print it out when he gets to that time. He also stated that the summer help are hard workers and he thanks them. He notified council he spoke to PennDOT and a trash truck will be going out to North Ninth and clear that area to Marietta.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the public works for their work on the falls at East Park.

Resolution No.: 7-17-2022: "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.