

**Connellsville City Council
Minutes
AUGUST 19, 2014**

This regular meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 6:30 PM at City Hall, Connellsville, PA. Attending this meeting was Mayor Lincoln, Council members Karpiak, Geyer, Zolbrod and Ritch. Also attending this meeting was City Clerk Tesauro and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Lincoln instructed the public to state their name and where they are from, noting he will not allow personal attacks or interruptions. He stated this time is for government business only.

Bob Topper, New Haven Hose Report, Fund Drive, Hoagie Sale update

Peter Jandura, In favor of Vacant Building Ordinance. Stated he has been trying to get Council to "fix up the town" for many years.

Lucy King, Downtown Connellsville Update

Susan Semblance, No show

Kelly Gallo, West Side Business District, (separate from Downtown Connellsville) discussed the growth of the west side

Mayor Lincoln stated he would be happy to attend one of their meetings and help in whatever way he can.

MaryBeth Salantino, Right-to-Know was not fulfilled, in favor of Vacant Building Ordinance, stated she felt targeted and the City needs an ordinance that is effective

Bob Watson, stated he is for the Vacant Property Ordinance

Mr. Mitchell, stated City needs fair codes

Anthony Killinson, Requested business signs at Yough Park, roof needs repaired and asked for rules/regulations of selling food at Yough Park

David McIntire, Supports the Vacant Property Ordinance

Dr. James McIntire, Supports Vacant Property Ordinance

Judy Keller, Questioned where the money is coming from for the Redevelopment Authority project and was in favor of the Vacant Property Ordinance

Regal Fetterman, in favor of Vacant Property Ordinance

Melissa Tzan, Recreation Board update

Roxanne Mongelluzzo, In favor of Vacant Building Ordinance

Robert Carson, Against Vacant Building Ordinance

Frank Gray, Asked Council to define the Vacant Building Ordinance and the standard, owns property on North Second Street

Greg Helusak, Discussed his property and what he feels he can do with it

Keith Cook, Zoning problems and parking on Race Street

Geno Gallo, Property Owners Association, Against the Vacant Building Ordinance

Zolbrod defended Tom Currey and the Health Board noting they are following the City Ordinances and Codes. He added if anyone feels they are being targeted to contact him and he will gladly meet with them.

Goldie Mitchell, Described her property and stated she feels she is being targeted by the City

Mr. Mitchell spoke again

CORRESPONDENCE:

Connellsville Elks Lodge #503, request to close North Carnegie Avenue

Resolution No. 8-1-2014: "To close North Carnegie Avenue, between East Crawford Avenue and East Orchard Alley from 9 AM on August 23, 2014 until 9 AM on August 24, 2014 for the Elks annual picnic; pending review and approval from the Police Chief."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Karpiak, Ritch and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Margaret Livingston, request to block Sycamore Street

Resolution No. 8-2-2014: "To close the 1200 Block of Sycamore Street on September 20, 2014 from 2:30 PM until 11 PM for the annual block party; pending review and approval from the Police Chief."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Karpiak, Ritch and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 8-3-2014: "To accept the minutes from the July 15, 2014 City Council Meeting."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Karpiak, Ritch and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-4-2014: "To accept the minutes from the July 31, 2014 Special City Council Meeting."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Karpiak, Ritch and Zolbrod and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-5-2014: "To waive the 4-day Resolution Rule to allow for items submitted after the 4-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 Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report

Resolution No. 8-6-2014: "To open bids for the 2006 Chevrolet Impala Police Vehicle."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

One bid was received.

Resolution No. 8-7-2014: "To accept the bid of \$458.00, Yousef Dabbagh for the purchase of the 2006 Chevrolet Impala Police Vehicle."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-8-2014: "To approve a Police Internship for Donald Morris, California University of Pennsylvania student; internship to be twelve weeks."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Geyer questioned the wording of the original resolution reappointing Tesauro. Council agreed to revise the resolution as follows:

Resolution No. 8-9-2014: "To reappoint and enter into a Revised Employment Agreement with Antoinette Tesauro, as City Clerk, in accordance with the recently reenacted Third Class City

Code; and authorizing and directing the Mayor, City Clerk, and other municipal officials to perform all actions necessary there too.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-10-2014: “To contribute and transfer to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Connellsville the sum of \$50,000.00 to be used exclusively for payment to Morgan Excavating, L.P., or such other contract awardee, for completion of the 2013 CDBG Francis Avenue Road Construction Project, at no further cost or expense of the City, and such sum shall be used last such that any unused funds shall be returned to the City within sixty (60) days of completion of the project. The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Connellsville shall provide periodic reports of the progress of such project; as a condition of such contribution and transfer, the City shall not be deemed a party, agent, contractor, or employer of Morgan Excavating, L.P., or such other contract awardee. Such funds to be transferred from Liquid Fuels.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-11-2014: “To ratify the recommendation and decision of the Carnegie Free Library Board of Trustees to accept the bid of Allegheny Millworks for the Library historic windows project.”

Solicitor Witt stated the City and library was awarded a Keystone Grant from the Commonwealth of PA’s Recreation Fund noting one project submitted was the window project.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

REMINDERS:

August 30th the Carnegie Library will show the Lego Movie at East Park. Lincoln stated the movie starts at 9 PM and there will be other things going on there and it’s free.

East Park movie, Blind Side, Thursday, August 21st

Fishing Derby, Yough Park, August 23rd, 724-219-7368

Offices at City Hall will be closed on September 1st in observance of Labor Day

Mum Festival/Mustang Parade, Cultural Trust, 724-320-6392, September 6th

5K Paint Run/Walk at Penn State, 10 AM, September 13th

Thanked Dennis Dunkard for donating the flag that hangs outside City Hall

GEYER:

Discussed a Memo from the City Bookkeeper about purchasing. Geyer stressed that Purchase Orders need to be obtained prior to purchases noting the understanding of emergencies.

Resolution No. 8-12-2014: "To accept the resignation of Kelly L. McLaughlin as Seasonal Clerk for the Tax Office retroactive August 11, 2104."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-13-2014: "To hire Gwen Nelson as Seasonal Clerk for the Tax Office at a rate of \$7.50 per hour, not to exceed \$3,600 annually; employment begins August 25, 2014."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-14-2014: "To accept the recommendation of the City's independent auditors, McClure and Wolf, and to establish an audit committee comprised of the following City officials, in their official capacities: the Director of Accounts and Finance, the City Treasurer, the City Controller, the City Clerk, the City Bookkeeper, and the City Solicitor; such audit committee shall be tasked with providing independent review of the municipality's financial reporting processes, internal and external audits, formal responses to audits and oversight of City management's actions to achieve compliance, and to monitoring the City's development and adherence to standard operating procedures for its fiscal affairs, upholds the integrity of independent external audits and the objectivity and comprehensiveness of internal audits."

Geyer stated this group will help better administer the accounting in the office and they will not be performing an audit.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Karpiak discussed the DEP Grant for Street Department.

RITCH:

Resolution No. 8-15-2014: "To open bids for the City owned vacant property on York Avenue (Parcel ID 05030100 and Parcel ID 05030101) to be sold as one lot."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Two bids were received and open: Hubert Coleman, \$600 and Carol Stewart, \$201

Resolution No. 8-16-2014: “To accept the bid of \$600, Hubert Coleman for the purchase of the City owned vacant property on York Avenue (Parcel ID 05030100 and Parcel ID 05030101) to be sold as one lot.”

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 8-17-2014: “To allow Yough River Trail Council and Connellsville Area High School to erect two Adirondack Shelters on City property at no cost to the City.”

Ritch stated the shelters will be close to the present two shelters and built by the students from the career institute.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod, Ritch and Karpiak and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

ZOLBROD:

Fire Department Report

Zolbrod thanked Chief Topper from New Haven Hose for announcing the volunteer fire department personnel are trained and continue to be trained. He noted it's great for the City to know the volunteer fire department personnel are qualified and trained.

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Zolbrod briefed there will never be a perfect Vacant Building Ordinance, changes were made due to public input and 75% of Third Class Cities have an ordinance like this. He further stated that “health concern” is number one and this ordinance is not a fight against landlords.

Ritch stated two Council persons were singled out because of being landlords and was told they should not vote because of that. He further stated they do have the right to vote and they represent the people in this town. Ritch also stated he respects everyone's right to speak because that is the First Amendment.

Resolution No. 8-18-2014: “To introduce Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 1508, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY AND VACANT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES WITH A NOTARIZED REGISTRATION AND THE PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES; SETTING FORTH DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AGENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE POSTING OF SUCH PROPERTY; IMPLEMENTING A DUTY TO AMEND THE REGISTRATION; ESTABLISHING THE FEES FOR REGISTRATION AND APPLICABLE WAIVERS THEREFROM; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR APPEALS; PROVIDING THAT DELINQUENT REGISTRATION FEES SHALL BE A LIEN ON SUCH PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS; SETTING

FORTH PROVISIONS REGARDING RIGHTS OF ENTRY INTO SUCH PROPERTY AND REGARDING SEARCH WARRANTS AND NOTICES; PROVIDING PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL REQUESTED INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE; SETTING FORTH VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER CODES; DECLARING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE ARE NONEXCLUSIVE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE ORDINANCE.”

Geyer thanked Zolbrod and Witt for their time on this ordinance. He discussed his concerns with the interior inspection with the residential properties.

Zolbrod stated he is not interested in the Trigger Clause.

Karpiak said he has been hearing that this Council hasn't been doing anything against "blight" and do not care about it and that he as a landlord has been villianized and is an easy target. He explained that no-one wants to get blight out of the City more than someone who has invested in the town, such as he and other landlord do. He added Council does want to get rid of blight. Karpiak stated the Code Enforcement today as opposed to years ago has been successful. He stated this ordinance is against property owners.

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod and Ritch and Mayor Lincoln. Karpiak voted nay. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

CITY TREASURER KELLER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER BROOKS REPORT:

Resolution No. 8-19-2014: "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

A vote upon the adoption of the resolution resulted as follows: Affirmative were Councilmen Geyer, Zolbrod and Ritch and Mayor Lincoln. Karpiak was absent. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.