

**Connellsville City Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 18, 2018**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Led by Pastor Mike Martin

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Barry Craig, Questions concerning the Knox Box Ordinance. He stated he is the owner of Craig Appliance and furniture. Mr. Craig questioned what caused this ordinance to come about, is there documentation as to how many businesses in the City have had false fire alarms, has there been a chronic abuse of that and if so – why not target only the abusers rather than the entire business district. He questioned if the Knox Box is broken into or robbed then who is responsible for the loss. He also stated that he read the fines pertaining to this ordinance is from \$50 to \$1,000. Mr. Craig also stated he can buy a coated box at a hardware store for \$40 then questioned why the cost is \$318. He further added he pays a business privilege and mercantile tax so why does he have to pay for this. Mr. Craig stated he still does not know what the Business Privilege Tax is used for.

Councilman Robert Topper, Jr. responded to Mr. Craig's questions. He noted the Fire Chief is not paid, he is volunteer, and brought the idea to the City who runs it past the City Solicitor and reviews it with Council. He stated there was no feedback from the public after the first reading of the ordinance or the second meeting when adopted. Topper stated the City followed the proper procedures and advertised the proposed ordinance. He noted it was not until after the ordinance was passed that the phone calls and feedback come in. Topper added that New Haven Hose does keep track of each call they answer but does not have numbers with him right now. He noted most of New Haven's alarms are false. Topper stated this ordinance is more of a proactive idea due to new construction going on and wanting to get something into place. He stated the box for \$318 is very different from the box in the hardware store. Topper explained that the key is specific to Connellsville noting keys to other cities will not work here. He added they are an extremely strong box unlike the type at the hardware stores. Topper questioned Craig if his fire alarm rings back to an automated system that will call 911 immediately without you having to ask them to.

Mr. Craig answered no.

Councilman Topper, Jr. stated in that case, he does not need a Knox Box. He added Council is not requiring businesses to get a monitored alarm or the Knox Box. Topper stated only businesses where it is 2 AM, the alarm goes off and automatically wakes up responding personnel without someone having to call 911 because it automatically sets of pagers and the fire department is asked to respond, then the ordinance affects that business. Topper further added if the alarm only rings to the business owner's phone, then this ordinance does not affect that business. He noted the fire department wants to avoid the 2 AM calls in which the keyholder to the building living out of town and having to wait for them to arrive with the key. He also added the question is why have the fire department there when they can't get in to actually investigate why the alarm went off in the first place.

Mr. Craig asked who would have the alarm code.

Councilman Topper, Jr. answer that no one would have the code. He added if the fire alarm goes off, he believes the burglar alarm will not go off. He further added if someone steals the key and opens the door

without the fire alarm going off, the police alarm will go off. Topper stated it is no different than someone taking an ax and busting down the door.

Mr. Craig questioned how a not for profit organization pay for this.

Robert Topper, Sr. also gave input stating when he brought this ordinance to City Council it was because there were incidents in which alarms were going off and they needed to weigh out whether they should clear out of the building and what if there was an issue if they left or do they damage the building to get in and investigate. Topper questioned which would be worse especially if someone lives above the business? He added this is only about 15 to 20 businesses in the City and most of them already have a Knox Box. Topper said there is only a handful of businesses that he would like to see get a Knox Box due to past issues with them. He added it is in place to protect the fire department, the City, the businesses and owners and lives. Topper added they do not want it to be anything controversial towards New Haven Hose. He noted this has been in existence since the early 1970's and most insurance codes for new business construction are required to have a fire alarm system. He noted with that they wanted to address the Knox Box issue immediately.

Mr. Craig thanked Council for clearing out his questions and concerns.

#### **CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

#### **CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Pray Connellsville, Request for Veterans Plaza, October 12th, 5 PM - 9 AM & 13th, 9 AM - Noon

**Resolution No. 9-1-2018:** "To grant permission to the Connellsville Ministerial Association to use Veterans Plaza on Friday, October 12, 2018 from 5 PM until 9 PM and Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 9 AM until 12 noon for their Pray Connellsville gathering."

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.

Lou Ann Lauffer, IC Church Festival Committee, Ally closure request

**Resolution No. 9-2-2018:** "To close the ally from Prospect Street to Cottage Avenue near the IC Church lot for their Octoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 12 noon until 8:00 PM; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

Mayor Lincoln noted this is a public event and not just church members.

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.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 9-3-2018:** "To approve the minutes from the August 21, 2018 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.

**Resolution No. 9-4-2018:** "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.

#### **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report

Chief Hammerle discussed citizens parking in fire lanes now will be getting \$100 fine rather than \$10 fine.

Councilman Karpiak questioned the cameras at the parks and if they are helping the police.

Chief Hammerle answered they have aided in capturing citizens when damage is done in the parks. He noted he would like cameras installed in other areas of the City.

Mayor Lincoln discussed missing child, Ann Marie Elizabeth Johnston. He asked that if anyone knows of her whereabouts to please call the City or State Police. Mayor Lincoln gave her description and stated her family wants her home safe.

**Resolution No. 9-5-2018:** "To close Leisenring, Marietta and Crawford Avenues and Eighth Street, North Seventh and Meason Streets, West Crawford Avenue and the intersections of Sixth through First Streets, West Crawford Avenue and Arch Street, West and East Crawford Avenues and North Pittsburgh Street, North Pittsburgh Street and Apple Street and North Arch Street and Apple Street on Saturday, December 1, 2018 for the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Christmas Parade at 11 AM; Pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

Councilman Topper, Jr. stated this is the second year for the Chamber sponsoring this. He noted it will begin with breakfast with Santa and concerts at the church. Topper stated to be in the parade, contact the Chamber at 724-628-5500.

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. 9-6-2018:** "To ratify and approve a three-year contract agreement between the City of Connellsville and the United Steelworkers of America Local Union 13836-23, the Administrative Union."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Janine Brooks, the union representative. He noted the City was able to work this contract out with her and Shelley. He added it is fair for both sides.

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. 9-7-2018:** "To Approve Tom Cesario to do an internship with the Connellsville Police Department retroactive to August 27, 2018."

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. 9-8-2018:** "To Approve the Connellsville Area Education Association permission to hold a bonfire at Yough Park on Thursday October 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm in conjunction with this year's Connellsville Area School Districts Homecoming festivities."

Mayor Lincoln stated they are not sure if they are going to do this but wanted approval incase they do. He added New Haven will have two men there as a fire precaution.

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. 9-9-2018:** "To adopt the Fair Housing Resolution as follows:

**LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS** of the City of Connellsville that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status(families with children), or handicap (disability) is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Act) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. It is the policy of the City of Connellsville to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. Therefore, the City of Connellsville does hereby pass the following resolution.

Solicitor Witt noted this is done each year to comply with the Government's Fair Housing Act and for the City to receive it's CDBG Funds.

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. 9-10-2018:** "BE IT RESOLVED, 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."

Solicitor Witt added this resolution is also a requirement in order to obtain CDBG Funds.

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. 9-11-2018:** "To enter into a Right of Entry Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to have permission to temporarily access the pier in Yough Park under the Memorial Bridge for an art project, with the terms and conditions specified by PENNDOT."

Mayor Lincoln explained this will allow Brandi Bee to continue to paint under the bridge. He stated her paintings are looking great.

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. 9-12-2018:** "To authorize the signatures of the Mayor and attested by the City Treasurer on the Right of Entry Agreement between the City of Connellsville and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation."

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:**

September 22nd & 29th, Yoga on the Yough, 9 AM - 10:30 AM & Farmer's Market, 8 AM - Noon

September 22nd, Connellsville Police Bike Run, Yough Park, 10 AM

September 24th, FREE Community Lunch, Christian Church, 212 S. Pgh. St., 11:30 AM - 1 PM  
Mayor Lincoln thanked them for their lunch to the community.

September 25th & 26th, October 9th, 10th, 23rd & 24th, Recycling Days  
Mayor Lincoln noted this is not every other week.

September 29th, Wesley Health Center, free flu shots, 9 AM - Noon

October 4th Community Bonfire at Yough Park 7 PM for Homecoming

October 6th, Tangled Up In Brew, Yough Park, 6 PM - 10 PM  
Mayor Lincoln noted this event helps budget the Recreation Department with the City's 11 parks. He asked for the communities support adding this is an adult night.

October 6th, Fall Clean Up Day  
Mayor Lincoln announced Advanced Disposal begins pickup at 2 AM or 3 AM. He instructed residents to put items out the evening before.

October 6th, New Haven Hose Hoagie Sales

October 12th, Scott C's Car Cruise, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

October 14th, 24th Annual YRTC/Bud Murphy's Fall Ride/Walk, 724-628-6078 or visit [www.youghrivertrail.com](http://www.youghrivertrail.com)

October 18th, 2nd Annual "Take a Slice Out of Hunger" at Murphy Hall Lunch 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
Dinner 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Mayor Lincoln stated this is a great day to try all the pizza in town. He added cheese pizza is \$10 and pepperoni is \$12. Mayor Lincoln thanked all the restaurants that participate in this and added the money goes to Connellsville Community Ministries. He requested that everyone eat pizza that day.

October 30th, Halloween Parade, 7 PM

Mayor Lincoln stated if anyone wants to enter the parade to call New Haven at 724-528-5590 or their Facebook Page.

October 31st, Trick or Treat, 6 PM - 8 PM

Sign up for Code Red Alerts at [www.fcema.org/codered](http://www.fcema.org/codered) and save the severe weather warning phone number to your phone: 800-566-9780

View reminders and pavilion rental dates on the City's website: [www.connellsville.us](http://www.connellsville.us)

City Clerk, Vernon Ohler, mentioned October 12<sup>th</sup> there will be 8 teams coming through Connellsville's Yough Park. He noted these teams will be running from Cumberland to Pittsburgh.

#### **KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 9-13-2018:** "To schedule the Budget Meetings for the following dates: October 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM, October 9, 2018 at 6 PM, October 23, 2018 at 6 PM and November 1, 2018 at 6 PM, if needed, in City Council Chambers, City Hall."

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. 9-14-2018:** "To authorize the City Clerk to contact local financial institutions regarding a Tax Anticipation Note for 2019, if needed."

Councilman Keedy noted reports show there is over \$700,000 in the bank. He added they don't know if they will need a loan but he wants to at least ask about it and get all the information.

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.

#### **KARPIAK:**

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak announced the Autism Walk that will be held September 29, 2018 at the Sheepskin Trail in Hopwood. He added it benefits the Connellsville Autism Center's children for field trips and things like that. Karpiak thanked the hospital and Autism Center for their grand opening, noting it was super, and the work that they are doing. Karpiak also stated the center is a blossoming miracle now. He asked residents to take a look at the center, noting it is a win for the City since this is helping children and bringing jobs. Karpiak added with jobs maybe people will not have to move. He stated if you want to get involved in the walk to call Highland's Hospital for information or view their Facebook Page. Karpiak stated if you can't make the race, donations are welcome.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Public Works Department for all they did during the recent flooding.

#### **TZAN:**

**Resolution No. 9-15 -2018:** "To grant permission to Calli Tony to use Yough Park on Mondays and Wednesday at 6 PM to teach fitness classes."

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 also thanked the Public Works Department for all the work they did during the recent flood.

Mayor Lincoln stated Connellsville is getting a Deck Hockey Court on 12<sup>th</sup> Street soon. He added this is with Community Development Block Grant monies the City had to spend.

**TOPPER:**

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper thanked New Haven Hose for their work during the most recent flood, noting it was mainly basement flooding. He added they are all volunteering.

Councilman Karpiak thanked New Haven Hose for their assistance during the flood noting they are a great group of men.

Mayor Lincoln also thanked New Haven Hose for their help during the flood and giving up their time.

**Resolution No. 9-16-2018:** "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.