

**Connellsville
City Council Minutes
SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

This regular meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA. Attending this meeting was Mayor Matthews, Council members Karpiak, Weaver, Geyer and Ritch. Also attending this meeting was City Clerk Tesauro and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Pledge led by Pastor Smith

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Topper, New Haven Hose Company and the Fire Department
Lucy King, Downtown Connellsville
Judy Keller, City Treasurer
Aaron Zolbrod, Paid Fire Department and Four Day Rule

CORRESPONDENCE:

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 9-3-2013: "To approve the minutes from the August 21, 2013 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 9-4-2013: "To approve the minutes from the September 6, 2013 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 9-5-2013: "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 Karpiak, Geyer, Ritch, Weaver and Mayor Matthews. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR MATTHEWS:

Police Department Report

Matthews announced there was a Special Meeting on September 6th and approved the City's Police Department's Collective Bargaining Agreement. He noted the Police Department (like the Fire Department) has time constraints on filing for a binding arbitration under Act 111.

Matthews stated that Council had to get that done at that time before they filed. He stated if the Police would have filed, it would have cost the City. Matthews thanked Council for coming out and meeting with the Police four times.

Matthews explained the Fire Department Resolution on the Agenda. He stated Gates (fireman) failed to file for arbitration. Matthews noted he is at the will of the City as far as what can be done with his contract. He stated all Council did with his contract was extend it one year with no additional pay, benefits or anything. Matthews said the year will allow this Council or the next Council to see what they want to do with the Fire Department. He stated one thing is discussing with the Code Officer how much work he does for him with Code Work.

Matthews explained that Council negotiates contracts with just about every employee in the City. He added the Police Department has been successful; now the Fire Department will be taken care of and next will be the Street Department and Health Officer's Contract. Matthews added when Council was elected, it became their job to do this for the City.

Matthews acknowledged and welcomed the Boy Scouts.

Resolution No. 9-6-2013: "To close certain City streets for the following events: New Haven Hose Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 29th beginning at 7 PM. Beginning at Green Street by the Presbyterian Church and South Side Grocer from Green Street down South Pittsburgh Street to Brimstone Corner, left through town and over bridge to Seventh Street, and ending at New Haven Hose Company; pending approval of Police Chief and Penn DOT."

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

Matthews announced the next resolution is needed for CDBG Monies.

Resolution No. 9-7-2013: "ADOPTING POLICY PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN NONVIOLENT CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION.

WHEREAS, the congress of the United States has passed Section 104(1) to the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act Stating that no CDBG funds may be obligated or expended by any unit of general local government that fails to adopt and enforce a policy of prohibiting the use of excessive force by local law enforcement agencies with its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations; or fails to adopt and enforce a policy of enforcing applicable state and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

AND WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville has received a Community Development Block Grant and is required to comply with the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act;

AND WHEREAS, the failure to enforce such policies may cause the City to lose its grant or eligibility for future grants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA:

- SECTION 1 It is the POLICY of the CITY that excessive force by local law enforcement agencies shall not be used against individuals engaged in lawful and nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within the CITY boundaries.
- SECTION 2 It is the POLICY of the CITY to enforce applicable state and local laws against the physical barring of an entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.
- SECTION 3 The CITY COUNCIL will coordinate with the CITY POLICE to implement this Resolution by amending applicable CITY POLICE procedures.”

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

Resolution No. 9-8-2013: “To approve a motion to permit James T. Stevenson, a Criminal Justice Student from Westmoreland County Community College, to perform an internship with the Connellsville Police Department commencing on September 23, 2013 at 1500 hours and ending on September 27, 2013 at 2400 hours.”

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

Resolution No.: 9-9-2013: “To set Trick for Treat in the City of Connellsville for Sunday, October 27, 2013 from 4 PM to 6 PM.”

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

REMINDERS:

Sunday, September 22nd, 7 AM until 12 noon, St. Rita’s Breakfast
Saturday, September 28th, By Faith Ministries, FREE Community Breakfast
Farmers Market, PNC Parking Lot, Saturdays until September 28th from 8 AM until 12 noon
Saturday, October 5th, Concert at East Park
Saturday, October 5th, Fall Clean Up Day in the City
Saturday, October 5th, Hard To Recycle, Wharton Township Municipal Building, 9 AM – 2 PM
Saturday, October 12th, Tangled up in Brew, 6 PM – 9 PM, tangledbrew@gmail.com for info.
Sunday, October 13th, 3-2-1 Bike Ride at Yough Park, info@321ride.org
Saturday, October 26th at noon, Registration at 10:30 AM, \$25 early registration and \$35 the day of event, Zombie Run, 5K Run with “Zombies” along the path, visit the Zombie Run Facebook or Downtown Connellsville’s website
Saturday, October 26th, Community Center Scavenger Hunt, Register at 3:30, game at 4 PM
October 29th, Halloween Parade
Trick or Treat, October 27th, from 4 PM to 6 PM
November 23rd, Light up Night and Christmas Parade

GEYER:

Resolution No.: 9-10-2013: "To set December 31, 2013 as the final day to pay 2012 City per capita taxes to the local tax office. Post marked dates are acceptable. After that date the delinquent 2012 taxes will be turned over to Berkheimer for collection and additional fines and penalties."

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

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Compost will be available for pick-up on the 25th at the City Garage and Sewage Plant.

WEAVER:

Health Department Report
Fire Department Report
New Haven Hose Report

Fall Clean-up Day, October 5, 2013

Resolution No.: 9-11-2013: "To execute the Board of Health's order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 916 Aetna Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, Parcel ID 05-15-0095 and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition, utilizing the 2013 CDBG Funds when they become available."

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

Resolution No.: 9-12-2013: "To execute the Board of Health's order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 108-110 Gallatin Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425, Parcel ID 05-07-0252, and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition, utilizing the 2013 CDBG Fund when they become available."

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

Resolution No.: 9-13-2013: "To execute the Board of Health's order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 1018-1020 Aetna Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, Parcel ID 05-15-0079, and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition, utilizing the 2013 CDBG Funds when they become available."

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

Resolution No.: 9-14-2013: “To extend the Fire Department Contract, with the same terms and conditions, for a period of one (1) year, commencing on January 1, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2014.”

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

Weaver commented on the Non-Profit Groups being blessed with the “Day of Caring” put on by the United Way of Westmoreland County. “On behalf of the Carnegie Library and Connellsville Community Center, Connellsville Community Ministries, Wesley Health Center and Route 119, the bridge by Yough Parks, we thank the United Way and Downtown Connellsville for the support they gave. Pittsburgh Paints Company supplied a lot of the paint. October 12th is Wesley Health Center’s 20th Anniversary and open house from 10 AM until 2 PM.

Geyer added the Lions Clubs helped write the grant and raise funds for a Retina Scanner for the Wesley Health Center. “They raised over \$20,000 that was matched by Lion’s International giving a total of over \$41,000” Geyer added.

Weaver explained the process.

RITCH:

Resolution No. 9-15-2013: “To place an invitation for bid for the sale of any City interest in the following properties: 1) *vacant property located on Francis Avenue, Parcel ID# 05030060; and 2) vacant property located on Run Avenue, Parcel ID# 05090436;* and direct the City Clerk to advertise these parcels for bid. Bids are to be received no later than October 14, 2013 at 4:00 PM and to be opened on October 16, 2013 at 7:00 PM at City Hall during the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.”

Ritch explained there are City properties that Council is trying to get back into the hands of the citizens. He added they are going to advertise three properties and get them back on the tax rolls.

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

Resolution No. 9-16-2013: “To accept the resignation of Kenneth Brooks from the Recreation Board effective September 1, 2013.”

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

Resolution No. 9-16-2013: “To appoint Matthew Ptacek to the Recreation Board effective September 1, 2013; term to expire January 1, 2014.”

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

Ritch thanked the Recreation Board for all that they do.

Community Center update: Last year the occupancy rate was 9%. Right now it's at 40%. Ritch added it is still moving forward with the help of numerous volunteers. He announced some new and old businesses in the center. Ritch thanked Josh DeWitt for putting new speakers in the Porter Theater and donating a tremendous amount of time in the Community Center. He further thanked John Hammon for the rewiring of the speakers.

Ritch announced upcoming events: such as: \$10 tickets, 7:30 pm on October 3rd and October 4th, and October 5th and October 6th at 2:30 is Broadway ... Recently.

CITY TREASURER REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER REPORT: NOT AVAILABLE

Resolution No. 9-17-2013: "That this meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

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