

**Connellsville City Council  
Minutes  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

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 Tzan, Keedy, Karpiak and McIntire. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Pastor Brian Higbee led invocation.

Reminder of the procedures for public participation during City Council meetings.

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Pastor Brian Higbee discussed the upcoming October 7<sup>th</sup> Pray Connellsville Event. He announced everyone will meet at the Veterans Plaza and pray then, if there are enough people, walk every street in the City praying over every home, business and organization.

Bob Topper, Jr., Recreation Board update. He announced Light Up Night will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mayor Lincoln congratulated Marilyn Weaver for her induction into the Connellsville Falcons Hall of Fame.

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

New Haven Hose, Halloween Parade, Street closure request, October 31, 2017, 7 PM

**Resolution No. 9-1-2017:** "To close Pittsburgh Street from Green Street to Crawford Avenue; Crawford Avenue from Pittsburgh Street to Seventh Street on October 31, 2017 for the annual Halloween Parade; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Rick and Armstrong for the "glow sticks" that they will pass out at the Halloween Parade.

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

City Church/Connellsville Area Ministerial Association/Churches of Connellsville, Pray Connellsville, Veteran's Plaza, October 7th at 10:00 AM

**Resolution No. 9-2-2017:** “To permit City Church to use Veteran’s Plaza on October 7, 2017 at 10 AM.”

Mayor Lincoln encouraged everyone to attend and thanked them for their continued service to the City.

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

Veterans Commission, Veterans Day Parade, Street closure request, November 11, 2017, 11AM

**Resolution No. 9-3-2017:** “To close North and South side streets from First Street to Seventh Street off of West Crawford Avenue; West Crawford Avenue between Seventh and Eighth Streets to the corner of Crawford Avenue and North Pittsburgh Street; all of North Pittsburgh Street to Route 119 at the Veterans Monument on November 11, 2017 for the Veterans Day Parade; Pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

Mayor Lincoln requested that residents and businesses along the parade route decorate in a “patriotic theme” of red, white and blue.

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

#### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 9-4-2017:** “To approve the minutes from the August 15, 2017 City Council Meeting.”

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

**Resolution No. 9-5-2017:** “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 Councilmembers Keedy, Tzan, Karpiak and McIntire and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

#### **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report was reviewed by Mayor Lincoln

Mayor Lincoln stressed that speeding and going through stop signs in the City is being watched carefully. He noted they are going to protect the citizens.

Mayor Lincoln announced the thefts at night are being investigated and if anyone sees or knows of anything to call it in to 911 or the station, noting citizens can report anonymously.

**Resolution No. 9-6-2017:** "Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Connellsville as follows:

WHEREAS, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to Communities for activities which will benefit low and moderate income families, aid in the elimination or prevention of slums or urban blight or other urgent community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has invited the City to submit an application in the amount of \$ 269,615.00 for financial assistance under its Fiscal Year 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has met all the citizens participation requirements relative to the Community Development Block Grant Program submission; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared a Three Year Plan and Statement of Objectives as required by DCED; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared an application for Financial Assistance under the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program, said application having been duly reviewed and considered by the Council of the City of Connellsville.

1. That the Community Development Block Grant Program Application dated October 2017 is hereby in all respects approved. The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of said program and application with the minutes of this meeting.
2. That it is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of community development activities with Federal/State financial assistance under Title I, including those under Title VI relating to the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, creed, or national origin and other implementation of the program.
3. That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, is authorized to file an Application for Financial Assistance to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program and act as the authorized representative for the City.
4. That the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council is hereby authorized to provide such assurance and/or certification as may be required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and any supplemental or revised data which DCED may request in connection with its review of the

application and including any revisions necessary to bring the application into conformity with DCED's final grant for the City."

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

**Resolution No. 9-7-2017:** "To enter into a lease agreement with Laurel Mountain Leasing on a 2017 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle from C Harper Through the PA CoStars Purchasing Program for four years at \$566.48 per month. Monthly payments to be taken from line item 410.375. Down payment and outfitting cost to be taken from Police Special Investigation Account."

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

**Resolution No. 9-8-2017:** "To grant the Police Chief and City Clerk permission to sign off on any needed paperwork for the leasing of the new police vehicle."

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

**Resolution No. 9-9-2017:** "To advertise for bids on "Asbestos Abatement and Demolition" for all homes that will be entering into agreement with PEMA's Hazardous Mitigation Program. Bid Packets will be available on October 2, 2017 and bids will be received up until 4:00 pm on November 20, 2017."

Mayor Lincoln stated the process is almost complete to get the families their money in the "buy-out" program.

Karpiak questioned the process and stipulations.

Solicitor Witt noted bids are only good for Sixty (60) Days. He added once the City opens the bids in November they can review the bids and get FEMA/PEMA's timeline. Solicitor Witt stated the bid specs will provide a time line allowing the City to provide a commence work order that will be within FEMA and PEMA's time frame. He added this will be after the City closes on the properties.

Council discussed bid specs further.

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

## REMINDERS:

September 23rd, Connellsville Township VFD, Spaghetti Dinner for Kelly Leiberger and Jim Saylor, 4 PM - 7 PM, \$10

September 23rd, Hard To Recycle, Farmington VFW Fairgrounds, 9 AM - 2 PM, 724-430-1210

September 24th, Sister Mary Agnes Day. Mayor Lincoln stated there will be a Mass at IC Church

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Services will be holding the 3rd Annual Peace From DV Walk September 30th, at the Church of the Covenant in Washington PA

October 4th and 5th from 8AM - 4PM, Highland's Hospital Fundraiser selling "Pink Zebra" items for home/office, 724-628-3639 for info. Proceeds benefit hospital equipment

October 7th, Yough Park, Tangled in Brew, 6 PM - 10 PM, Pre-sale tickets \$15 until October 1st, \$20 from October 1st until the day of event

October 7th, World Christian Outreach, Cameron Park Block Party, 1 PM-4 PM; rain date will be October 14th

October 7th at 10:00 AM, City Church/Connellsville Area Ministerial Association/Churches of Connellsville, Pray Connellsville, Veteran's Plaza

October 14th, Clean Up Day in the City, Place items out the night before. Mayor Lincoln stated they will not take your TV.

October 29th, Trick or Treat, 6 PM - 8 PM

October 31st, 7 PM, Halloween Parade

November 4th, 11 AM - 2 PM, Chili Fest, Ticket \$10 at Connellsville Canteen, 724-603-2093

November 11, 2017 Veterans Day Parade, 11 AM, From W Crawford to Brimstone Corner left onto North Pittsburgh Street to the Veterans Memorial

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM – 9 PM, Paint Room, Father Bob Sing off for charity with Mayor Lincoln and Armstrong. Event is open to public.

Fayette County Cultural Trust is celebrating their Ten (10) Years of being an organization next Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Aaron's Building.

## KEEDY:

**Resolution No. 9-10-2017:** "To authorize the City Clerk to contact local financial institutions regarding a Tax Anticipation Note for 2018, if needed."

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

**Resolution No. 9-11-2017:** "To schedule the Budget Meetings for the following dates: October 9, and 23, November 6 and 13, 2017, if needed, at 6 PM in City Council Chambers, City Hall. "

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

## **KARPIAK:**

### Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak announced leaf pickup will begin October 23, 2017 and will be put on the City website, noting to sweep leaves to the curb. He reminded residents "bag pickup" will start sooner than that.

**Resolution No. 9-12-2017:** "To enter into a lease agreement with Laurel Mountain Leasing, to purchase a Crafc0 Super S hot 125DC100 "Crack Sealer", from Air Vac Equipment of Derry, PA, through the Pennsylvania Co-Stars Purchasing Program. Payment schedule will include a \$10,000 down payment and five (5) yearly payments of \$8,334.97. Cost to be paid from the City's Liquid Fuels Account."

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

**Resolution No. 9-13-2017:** "To grant the City Clerk and the Bookkeeper permission to sign off on any needed paperwork for the leasing of the new crack sealer."

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

## **TZAN:**

Councilwoman Tzan discussed Tangled Up In Brew on October 7, 2017.

Mayor Lincoln added tickets are available at City Hall, Ruvos and Atkins Music Center. He noted the Recreation Board members also have tickets.

## **MCINTIRE:**

Health/Code Officer Report  
New Haven Hose Report

**Resolution No. 9-14-2017:** "To execute the Board of Health's order to abate the public nuisance by demolition the following property: 101 Lincoln Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425, and to submit the aforementioned property to the Redevelopment Authority for demolition.

Mayor Lincoln questioned why the City is paying to demolish a rental property when the owner has assets.

Solicitor Witt stated once the City demolishes a property, they have the option to place a lien on that property.

Councilman Karpiak noted that just costs the City Fifty more dollars and does nothing.

Mayor Lincoln asked why the City can't take ownership after demolishing the property.

Solicitor Witt answered the current laws does not permit that.

Mayor Lincoln then asked why the City can't go after the property that the owner currently lives in to be reimbursed for the funds the City is paying to have their property demolished.

Solicitor Witt stated there are some state laws that permit that. He added that he will look into that. He further added that he will see if the process that the City has done is the same process that is required for that to be an option.

Mayor Lincoln questioned why the City can't go after what is owed to the City when it comes to both demolition and taxes owed. He further stated he wants that looked at and wants to know what has to be done to change that (allowing the City to go after monies due to the City).

Code Officer, Tom Currey, stated the current owners have nothing and obtained the property for \$1,000. He added that they planned to repair it themselves. Currey also stated that under Act 90 the City can go after some of their personal assets. He further explained the process.

Solicitor Witt then stated there is a way for the City to acquire property prior to or in conjunction with the Tax Sale – before they are put up for the Tax Sale.

Mayor Lincoln stated the bottom line is the City does not want to be realtors.

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

**Resolution No. 9-15-2017:** "That his meeting of City Council does hereby adjourn."

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