

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2023

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 5:00 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 Chuck Hubble

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jason Bandemer announced PE In The Park, Summer physed program

Mayor Lincoln stated he received the flyer and it will be on the City's Facebook Page and Website.

Mr. Bandemer stated it is \$65 a week per individual and \$55 per child if you have multiple children. He added \$5 of the registration will go back to the Parks and Recreation Funds. He noted the program is taught by Physed Teacher, such as himself. Mr. Bandemer stated the groups are kindergarten through third grade and one group and fourth grade through fifth or sixth grade and then seventh and eighth grade as a group. He added kids have volunteered and they are not only from Connellsville, but all over. Bandemer stated they provide snacks for the kids and it is from 9 AM until noon, Monday through Thursday. He announced the sports games they play and added it is not competitive. He thanked Cindy Ghost for allowing them to use the Community Center on rain days and stated they are permitted to go there again this year. Bandemer announced there is a link on his Facebook Page, PE In The Park, where he will post things and a link for people to register.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned if he needs Liability Insurance.

Mr. Bandemer replied he has his own insurance.

Councilman Topper questioned if there is a deadline to sign up.

Mr. Bandemer replied people have called him the night before asking if they can join and he allows them to show up.

Councilman Topper questioned if they have financial assistance for children if needed.

Mr. Bandemer stated if there is a child that wants to join and cannot afford the \$65, he can make it happen for them.

Councilman Topper stated he encourages people to sponsor a child or a spot.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Marilyn Weaver

Mayor Lincoln questioned Ms. Weaver about the Business License list. He stated there are businesses on the list marked as not paid, but stated to him that they have paid.

Ms. Weaver stated they can call her office and the list came from what is in the computer. She added if they bring their registration in and show it to her, she will correct the mistake.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: William Addis

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chamber of Commerce, Request for East Side Fire Station on May 6, 2023 for Farmer's Market

Resolution No. 4-1-2023: "To grant permission to the Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce to use the East Side Fire Station on May 6, 2023 for the Farmer's Market; further granting the closure of North Arch Street from Apple Street to Peach Street from 7 AM until 3 PM; further granting permission for items listed on the Utilization Form; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Sam and the Chamber for taking over the Farmer's Markets. He added he told them they will need a separate liability insurance policy before May 6th. He requested the City Clerk to be sure to obtain that before May 6th. He added May 6th is also the Community Yard Sale and the Chamber is allowing yard sale vendors on this date, but the remainder of the markets will only be Farmer's Market vendors. Mayor Lincoln announced their Facebook Page contains the information and residents can sign up for the yard sale.

Council stated once they have the market schedule, they will do another resolution.

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 Ministerial Association, National Day of Prayer, May 4th, Noon – 1 PM

Resolution No. 4-2-2023: "To grant permission to the Connellsville Area Ministerial Association use of Veterans Plaza to hold its National Day of Prayer service on Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 12 Noon until 1:00 PM; Further authorizing the closure of North Arch Street at this time from through vehicular traffic; further authorizing items listed on the utilization form; pending review and approval from the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief."

Mayor Lincoln asked everyone to come out and join the service, noting it is great for the City.

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.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 4-3-2023: “To accept the minutes from the March 21, 2023 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. 4-4-2023: “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 Police Chief William Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln questioned Chief Hammerle about “Click it or Ticket.”

Hammerle stated they are doing that right now and for 16 hours of it, they will be reimbursed their overtime wages.

Hammerle discussed the young adults and children that have bad conduct at the Washington Street playground. He stated there is a large group that just hangs out, and another group that just plays basketball. He added between the two groups there is a lot of obscene language being used and they are being loud, they smoke, vape in the smoke free parks. He explained the situation and noted they came close to making arrests. Chief Hammerle added he is open to suggestions and if something is not done, it will get worse. He suggested removing the basketball hoop, citing them for vulgar language and smoking. He noted when they see the police coming, they stop and start up again after the police leave. Chief Hammerle asked Council how they would like the Police Department proceed with the situation.

Councilman Karpiak stated being kind to them certainly is not going to work, it is going on all over the country and noted the destruction gangs are causing. He suggested they may see these gangs on social media and want to be a part of it on a smaller scale. He added the parents are responsible for the underaged children. Councilman Karpiak suggested they come down as hard and as frequently as possible to let them know that this type of behavior that is acceptable.

Chief Hammerle replied the problem with this park is the houses are close together and close to the park. He stated if they are being loud and using obscene language, it can be heard clear in someone’s house because they are so close. He also stated they cannot watch it every minute due to being busy on

other calls; domestic, thefts, accidents, and other calls. Chief Hammerle suggested again that if anyone on Council comes up with new ideas to let him know.

Mayor Lincoln stated the best idea would be to put cameras in the park.

City Clerk Ohler stated there would need to be a power source and that would take time. He questioned Solicitor Witt if it would be ok for the neighbors to allow the City to put cameras on their property and focus it in the park.

Solicitor Witt stated if they had permission that would be ok.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if that would make the kids want to vandalize the homes.

Chief Hammerle stated that is what the neighbors are afraid of.

Councilman Topper added the Parks and Recreation Department work extremely hard to make the parks as nice as possible. He suggested that if they have more stuff there like Zolbrod's crafts and basketball. He noted the Recreation Department worked hard to get a sponsor for that park and do not want the solution to be removing the basketball hoops. Councilman Topper stated there is already talk of closing Cameron Park because of the Garden Club's expansion project. He stated that would be closing two basketball courts and these are just a few bad apples.

It was noted (*name withheld for safety reasons*) that most of these kids, who are causing problems, are not from Connellsville.

Councilwoman Tiberio suggested talking with the Connellsville kids.

Councilman Topper stated there are some southside kids who are not going to go to another park. He added they will just roam the streets of the southside. He noted if they took down the hoops it would be the same as if they put cameras on the houses, adding there will be a recourse no matter what they do.

Councilwoman Tiberio suggested going to the park collectively as council, police and Recreation Board and tell them "This is the warning. We are going to start giving citations."

Councilman Topper added what is on the news, you can walk into a gas station and destroy something with no repercussions.

Chief Hammerle stated they will not happen here. He told council he had two guys on dirt bikes ride past him on Pittsburgh Street. He added he just paced behind them because it was a busy time of day and he did not want anyone to get hurt. He stated he has them on camera in different places. Chief Hammerle stated he caught up with them at the high school and the kids were ready to be dismissed, they got away and gave chase and pursuit down Snyder Street and up Robbin Street, they went straight through the one-way street and he ended the pursuit there. He noted he did get the bikes later.

Councilman Topper commended Chief Hammerle for his patience there and at the southside playground.

Chief Hammerle added they were in his face at the playground. He informed council the police like to give warnings first and if it continues, they charge them. He informed council how the neighbors feel about the situation.

Councilman Keedy questioned if someone can be banned from the park.

Chief Hammerle stated he has done it before.

The issue was discussed further as well as the body and car camera policies.

Hammerle stated the old policy had both the body and car camera together and now they will be separate and updated in order to get this grant.

Solicitor Witt explained the policies and the limited access due to criminal and juveniles on the camera.

Resolution No. 4-5-2023: "TO ADOPT BILL NO. 3 OF 2023; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; DEFINING AND REGULATING BOTTLE CLUBS, REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF BOTTLE CLUBS; MAKING CERTAIN CONDUCT RELATING TO BOTTLE CLUBS UNLAWFUL; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville has the power and authority to regulate bring your own bottle clubs (BYOB Clubs)."

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. 4-6-2023: "To accept the resignation of Ethan Keedy from the Connellsville Housing Authority Board effective immediately."

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. 4-7-2023: "To adopt a new Body Camera Policy for the Connellsville Police Department, replacing the current combined Car and Body Camera Policy."

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. 4-8-2023: “To adopt a new Car Dash Camera Policy for the Connellsville Police Department, replacing the current combined Car and Body Camera Policy.”

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. 4-9-2023: “To introduce Bill No. 4 of 2023, An Ordinance of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance 1510 relating to burning within the City; to modify the permitted days and times for burning; repealing all inconsistent ordinances or parts thereof; and providing an effective date.”

Mayor Lincoln stated this is due to the dryness and wind. He added Chief Layton requested the ordinance be changed to Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

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. 4-10-2023: “To approve William Hammerle to enter into the Police Pensions DROP Program and use April 2023 as his calculation month.”

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. 4-11-2023: “To approve Daniel Wissler to enter into the Police Pensions DROP Program and use April 2023 as his calculation month.”

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. 4-12-2023: “That the City Council of the City of Connellsville hereby designates the City of Connellsville to serve as the project grantee and requests \$500,000 from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (“RACP”) to be used for the “Connellsville Micro Resort” project in accordance with the RACP Application and procedures. Project funds will be used to construct a brewery in the City of Connellsville, leading to economic development through new local job opportunities and increased tourism.”

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.

To create a City of Connellsville Marketing Board and accept Letters of Interest from citizens who wish to serve on the board.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is going to accept letters of interest to promote the City. He requested persons email their letter to connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com or drop your letters off at City Hall, 8 AM -5 PM. He stated next month they will create the board and the following month, if there is enough candidates, we will place people on the board.

Reminders available on the City's website: Connellsville.us

Vista Print has changed the City's website and is still working on it. We hope to have it repaired soon.
www.Connellsville.US

April 19th, Child Abuse Townhall, 6 PM – 8 PM, East Side Fire Station, Organizations will explain their roles to help and assist victims

April 22nd, Clean-up Day, Sponsored by the Connellsville Recreation Board. Mayor Lincoln stated if there is a rain date, we will let everyone know

April 22nd, Hard To Recycle Event at Fayette County Recycling Center, Uniontown, 8 AM – 3 PM

April 29th, Saturday, Recreation Board's Tangled Up In Vines, Noon to 4 PM, East Side Fire Hall, \$20 tickets at City Hall, Atkins, West Side Jewelry and Brillhart's in Scottdale

May 4th, National Day of Prayer, Veteran's Plaza, Noon – 1 PM

May 6th, Chamber of Commerce Yard Sales beginning at 8 AM

May 6th, New Haven Hose Hoagie Sales

May 13th, Saturday, New Haven Hose Neon Nights 5K, 8:30 PM beginning at New Haven Hose

May 13th, Lion's Club, Animals Wellness Clinic, Yough Park, 1 PM – 4 PM, Animals must be on leash

May 13th, Spring Clean Up in the City, put items at your curb the evening of May 12th

May 20th, Garden Club's Geranium Fundraiser pick-up at East Side Fire Hall

May 29th, Memorial Day Parade, 10 AM, Thank you to the Veteran's Commission for hosting each year Lion's Club concerts will begin at Lion's Square in June. Schedule to be released soon

June 2nd, 3rd & 4th, General Braddock's Fish Club's Yough River Rally

June 10th, Wiffle Ball Tournament, East Park, Info to be released soon

June 10th, Pride Fest, Yough River Park, 9 AM – 5 PM

June 17th, Juneteenth, East Side Fire Hall, 11 AM – 6 PM

June 25th, Friends Day at East Park, Info to be released soon

July 1st, Connellsville Recreation Board and Festival Association, Red White and Boom Festival, Noon until 10 PM, Fireworks at 9:30 PM, North Arch Street

Connellsville Recreation Board will host numerous events throughout the year. Visit their Facebook Page: Connellsville Rec Board

Mayor Lincoln stated because of the PUC regulation, Columbia Gas is being required to remove gas meters from 190 homes here in Connellsville. He added on April 24th they will start on the first 51 homes, mainly on the west side. He also stated the service lines and meters are all coming outside.

CPOA is having a Golf Outing on June 24th, \$100 per person, applications are on the police department page

KEEDY:

COUNCILMAN KARPIAK:

Health Officer's Report

Councilman Karpiak reminded residents to cut their grass, noting the City is now issuing citations.

New Haven Hose Report, Mike Gebe

Councilman Karpiak thanked Mr. Gebe for the report and for what they do all the time.

Mayor Lincoln requested an update on the garbage situation.

Councilman Karpiak stated he is investigation the ins and outs of getting people to pay their garbage bills. He added the benefactor from that will be everyone. He also added they are looking of ways to enforce people paying their garbage bill and they are close to getting a way to enforce this. Councilman Karpiak stated he does not want to get into what that will be and noted they shot down the idea of not picking up the garbage. He explained the City has not had enough bidders due to non-payment. He stated that what the City is going to do about this will set a precedence for a lot of municipalities in a lot of counties.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Councilman Karpiak and Mr. Gunderson, who has also done a lot of research. He stated Scottdale just put out for bid their garbage contract and had one bid, causing the monthly bill to go from \$15 per month to \$40 per month. He noted there is no justification to the increase. Mayor

Lincoln stated he would like to get all the municipalities in Fayette County that deal with this to file a letter with the Auditor General's Office asking for assistance in cracking down on how a garbage hauler can just charge whatever they want. He added that hopefully the City gets this billing correct and more companies will bid on the contract.

Councilman Karpiak added that it is not just for the residential, it is for the commercial as well. He continued if the City gets it all straight, and put out there what you are going to make, I think we can find enterprising trucking companies, here locally, that may branch out to that, giving these guys some competition.

Mayor Lincoln stated Chief Layton stated PA American removed the fire hydrant by the Paint Room because people kept smashing it. He stated they moved it across the street from Wavey and Janes and now will be by it.

Fayette EMS Report

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Resolution No. 4-13-2023: "To grant "One Voice/One Community" permission to hold their youth basketball league at Woodruff Park starting May 15, 2023 to July 31, 2023, pending valid Insurance Certificates provided to and approved by the City Clerk prior to use of park."

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. 4-14-2023: "To purchase a new X-Mark Zero Turn mower from Brillhart's Hardware through the PA Co-Stars program at 0% for 48 months; funds to be taken from Recreation line item 450.374."

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. 4-15-2023: "To purchase a new utility trailer from Smouse Trucks & Vans, Inc for the Recreation Department; funds to be taken from Recreation line item 450.374."

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 noted that in a year when the bridge is being reconstructed, this trailer will be needed to transport the mower over the bridge since they will not be able to drive it over the bridge.

Resolution No. 4-16-2023: “To grant permission to the City Clerk to sign all necessary paperwork on behalf of the City of Connellsville for the title transfer on the new utility trailer.”

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. 4-17-2023: “To enter into Agreement with James Cox to operate Youghiogeny Coffee out of the concession stand at Yough Park; rent will be \$75.00 per month.”

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. 4-18-2023: “To purchase two flower planters off of the Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce at a price of \$80 each; money to be taken from line item 409.250.”

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 Topper thanked all the sponsors that stepped up at the Recreation Board’s Spring Fling Event and the Recreation Board Members that put it together. He added there is now a sponsor for each park which is a huge help. He then asked for volunteers for this Saturday’s city-wide clean-up day. Councilman Topper added next Saturday is Tangled Up In Vines.

COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:

Public Works Report, James Bigam

Mr. Bigam informed council he spoke with Recreation Board will be purchasing paint and brushes and cleaning up Austin Park benches.

Councilman Topper stated Mountz Park benches could use a coat of stain on them as well.

Mr. Bigam informed council that Mr. Jacobyanski told him each park will be getting mulch. He told council they ran into a problem at 2nd ward park when they redid the fence. He added they cannot get a truck in there now. Mr. Bigam stated one solution would be to dump in the alley and transfer it with a skid steer. He asked if anyone has a solution.

City Clerk Ohler suggested dumping it onto a tarp.

The parks and mulch was discussed further.

Mr. Bigam noted there are 2,000 bins at the fire hall and they are still looking for a leak at East Park by pavilion #3. He added he found the prints and the line is right under the slab they have on pavilion #3.

Councilman Karpiak questioned how big the pipe is.

Mr. Bigam reply $\frac{3}{4}$ to an inch and discussed it further. He asked council if they should contact another company.

City Clerk Ohler relied he will go down to East Park with him and look at it.

Mr. Bigam then an idea for the Washington Park issue. He suggested putting a camera/light right at the corner of Washington and Vine Streets and shine it right onto the park. He added it could be wireless.

City Clerk Ohler added they need a power source for the camera.

Mayor Lincoln suggested reaching out to Dave at Armstrong.

Mr. Bigam suggested reaching out to a resident to use their internet.

City Clerk Ohler stated the kids would not know who they were getting it from.

Mayor Lincoln added if cameras are used, it will calm things down at the park.

Mr. Bigam questioned buying two signs that read THIS PARK IS UNDER SURVEILLIANCE 24 HOURS. He added the kids will not know and it makes you think. He added he spoke with kids he coached and they are telling him the names of the kids and the park, adding they are not from around here.

Resolution No. 4-19-2023: "To advertise for the position of Laborer for the Connellsville Public Works Department; salary dictated by current Union Contract with money to be taken from line item 1430.144. Applications will be due May 31, 2023 in the City Clerk's Office."

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.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she has a resolution for a promotion and requested pulling it from the agenda tonight. All councilmembers agreed.

Tabled: "To promote Marc Soisson to the position of Truck Driver/Painter starting immediately; salary to be paid from line item 430.141."

Resolution No. 4-20-2023: “To advertise to sell the following items: 5’ x 12’ Utility Trailer, 5’ x 8’ Utility Trailer, Walk Behind Toro Mower, Ex Mark zero Turn Mower, John Deer Leaf Cart, Air Compressor, Gas Powered Airless Paint Sprayer, Gas Powered Paint Sprayer, 9 Foot Meyer Snow Plow, 2 – Cub Cadet Snow Blowers, 2 – Tamper Plates, Skid Steer .5 Cubic Yard Bucket, Skid Steer Street Sweeper Attachment, Gas Furnace. All items are “As Is” condition. Sealed bids will be received until 4:00 PM on May 15, 2023 at City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425. All bids must include a 10% Bid Bond, Check or Money Order.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if a picture of the items as a group can be taken and posted on-line.

Mr. Bigam stated he is moving the items where the salt shed is, for visibility.

City Clerk Ohler stated he has pictures of the items.

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. 4-21-2023: “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.