

**CONNELLSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**5 PM – August 15, 2023**

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 5:00 PM in City Council Chambers, City Hall.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING ROLL CALL:**

Attending this meeting was Council members Karpiak, Topper, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Lincoln reminded the audience that there is a three-minute time limit to speaking.

Kathleen Mitchell, discussed Pickleball Courts

Mayor Lincoln stated the Recreation Board has already made the decision to install two new courts at the shuffle board area.

Councilman Topper stated they are making them into two new Pickleball Courts. He added they have looked into adapting the tennis courts more, such as the net coming down more and getting clamps. He informed her there is a resolution that is on the agenda tonight to install two new courts where the shuffle ball courts were at Mountz Creek.

Jason Prutz, discussed Pickleball Courts. He stated in June they began a pickleball club.

Councilman Topper notified Prutz the City's Recreation Fund does not have a lot of funds. He added that everything is done now and the Recreation Board has been working on the Pickleball Courts for two months. He questioned how many people in the club have come to a Recreation Board Meeting.

Jason Prutz stated he is a non-voting member of the Recreation Board.

Councilman Topper questioned him as to when he last attended a meeting. Prutz did not respond.

Persons from the audience were speaking and discussing the courts. Names were not given.

Mayor Lincoln spoke up; these courts have been installed for six years. No-one was playing on the courts; we advertise them and people are starting to use them. He added a group of 10 people want us to spend thousands of dollars to create more courts. He gave a second point that no-one on this council, except maybe Tiberio even knew this club existed. He continued they are not permitted to go to the

public court and reserve court time without going through the city and letting us know what you want. Mayor Lincoln added this could have all been diffused in council would have known about this.

Someone in the audience asked a question about pickleball. It was inaudible.

Mayor Lincoln answered "You created a Facebook Page, which was your first organized thing. Then you called it a club which means you schedule it for a certain period of time on a certain day."

The person in the audience again spoke up interrupting Mayor Lincoln.

Councilman Topper stated they are worried if someone blows up their achilleas. He added that he heard they have an instructor now. He questioned "What happens when these people go to the Connellsville Pickleball thing and blow out their achilleas? What happens when they are being instructed and blow out their achilleas? That happens a lot in tennis and pickleball."

The person in the audience stated "So basically you cannot use a public park or any of the parks..."

Councilman Topper questioned "Does your group have insurance?"

The discussion continued.

Chief Hammerle spoke up "Excuse me. Enough is enough."

Councilman Topper told the persons in the audience "We are going to work with you guys. We all love pickleball and I had a good time playing it. I will table this resolution tonight and we will meet down there and discuss what your vision is down there, we will measure and make sure the tennis people are happy as well."

A person in the audience stated they will take Connellsville off their page.

Mayor Lincoln spoke up again, noting there is no reserved time on the courts, because "We had no idea. He continued if they want to have a reserved time, you have to go through the City, just like the Little League does, just like the softball does."

Someone in the audience stated the date and time they chose.

Mayor Lincoln stated he does not care when they choose. He added they need to know when and who has what so Shelley can set something up for people to see when it is in use...this way if people want to use it, they know not to go down there.

The discussion continued.

Councilman Topper stated this is a Recreation Board issue and this discussion has taken up enough of City Council's time.

Mayor Lincoln reiterated that Council has no issue with them using the court, but they knew nothing about them using it. He clarified that if someone goes down there and they are told that you have it reserved, we do not know anything about that.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated "I do not know how they identify themselves...if they say "we are pickle ballers." Two people would sit out...and they would.... it is just how it goes."

Mayor Lincoln announced the Recreation Board is the first Thursday of every month.

Seth Caton, discussed Connellsville PD Server Upgrade

**CITY TREASURER REPORT:** Marilyn Weaver

**CITY CONTROLLER REPORT:** Bill Addis

New Haven Hose Report by Bill Addis

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No.: 8-1-2023:** "To accept the minutes from the July 18, 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 8-2-2023:** "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

Mayor Lincoln questioned Chief Hammerle; "If someone calls 911 or the station and states there are dogs running loose in their neighborhood, what do we do and what is our response to that."

Chief Hammerle stated "We respond, first of all. We see if we can find the animal at the time. If we find the animal and capture him, the first thing we do is look for the owner. We check for tags. A lot of them have chips and we have a chip reader to see if we can identify the dog that way. If there is no way to

identify the dog, we will keep it and call Hoffman's who will come. We also put it Facebook which is usually very successful in locating the owner. Very seldom does Hoffman come pick a dog up."

Mayor Lincoln asked Chief Hammerle to speak on the next resolution.

Chief Hammerle stated "Professionally, to use car #40 as police car, that would be hazardous." He also stated "They will be using it to transport mental health patients to the hospital or wherever they need to be."

Mayor Lincoln discussed the upgrade in the Police Department.

Chief Hammerle stated they are only upgrading the servers. He stated he brought the IT person with him tonight to explain technically what will be done.

Seth Caton, Apex, passed out information on what is needed at the Police Department. He then explained the prices, vendors, security, what is needed and the process.

Mayor Lincoln questioned the turnaround time and if he is worried about getting parts.

Seth Caton stated he has not seen getting parts as an issue over the past year. He did not give an exact time, but stated it would be pretty fast.

**Resolution No. 8-3-2023:** "To donate Car #40 to Fayette EMS on an "as is condition", with Fayette EMS absorbing all towing and transportation costs and permit the Police Chief and City Clerk to sign off on all necessary paperwork to complete the transaction."

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. 8-4-2023:** "For the City of Connellsville to allocate its FFY 2023 CDBG money for construction of an "Inclusive Playground" facility at Pinnacle Park and Code Enforcement."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Janine Brooks, Vernon Ohler, James Flynn, and everyone on the Recreation Board for working on this project.

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. 8-5-2023:** "To approve placement of Handicap Parking Signs at 601 West Crawford Avenue as recommended by the Traffic Committee; with cost of signs and installation being paid by the requesting business."

It was noted the sign will be put up by Tangles Hair Salon. The traffic and trucks issue were also discussed.

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. 8-6-2023:** “To appoint Bill Hardin to the Planning Commission with a term expiring on January 1, 2025.”

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.

Vernon Ohler, City Clerk, stated the Board of Health needs a member.

#### **REMINDERS:**

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Chamber for all of their efforts and work for bringing back the Farmer’s Market and noted they are doing a great job. He asked for the community to come out and support them.

Farmer’s Markets, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM – 7 PM and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 2 PM. Call Bonnie 724-570-8339 or Chamber at 724-628-5500, North Arch Street

CFS Bank is collecting school supplies for their Back-to-School Giveaway at Trinity Lutheran Church on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be accepted until August 18<sup>th</sup>

September 4<sup>th</sup>, Inaugural Connellsville Spiritual Sojourn for the Jamie McPoyle Foundation, Registration is \$30 and begins at 7:30 AM at Austin Park, Run, bike, or walk throughout the south side at 9 AM. Pre-register at “The Jamie McPoyle Foundation” on Facebook

September 9<sup>th</sup>, Croquet Tournament by the Recreation Board, East Park, visit Connellsville Rec Board on Facebook

September 16<sup>th</sup>, Quarter Auction, Benefits New Haven Hose & Crime Victims Center, Info available soon

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 29th Fall Foliage Ride/Walk, Yough River Bike Trail Council, <https://youghrivertrail.com> for registration forms

October 7<sup>th</sup>, Tangled Up In Brew at Yough River Park, 6 PM – 10 PM. Tickets should be available the beginning of September. They are looking for donations and sponsors.

The Connellsville Police Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you are interested or would like more information: Facebook: Connellsville PD Auxiliary.

Mayor Lincoln stated "If you are looking for something to do and want to give back to the community, this is a great group to join. You will see how great and important the group is."

**COUNCILMAN KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 8-7-2023:** "To transfer \$46,357.00 from the General Fund into line item 410.330 Police Computers and Software for purchasing of the body cameras and car cameras through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Grant."

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. 8-8-2023:** "To transfer \$24,000.00 from the General Fund into the Capital Improvement Fund to start the evidence room upgrades at the East Side Fire Station."

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 KARPIAK:**

Health Officer's Report  
Fayette EMS Report

Code Officer, Tom Currey, reminded residents to put their garbage in a can with lids.

**Resolution No. 8-9-2023:** "To Introduce an ordinance AMENDING SECTION 3 OF ORDINANCE NO. 1471 FOR THE LANDLORD REGISTRATION AND OCCUPANCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, ENACTED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2009."

Mayor Lincoln questioned what this change has to do with.

Councilman Karpiak stated this has to do with family members living in the homes that used to be a rental house.

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 asked Councilman Karpiak for an update on the garbage since the bids are out.

Councilman Karpiak stated that bids are out for the garbage contract and he is very happy with the number of companies picking up a bid packet. He quoted six were picked up so far, noting that is impressive considering the City has had only one or two. He also stated he is happy that it is pretty much guaranteed that if you do not pay your garbage bill, you will pay it now. Councilman Karpiak explained if you do not pay it, your water will be shut off. He noted that since the haulers do not have to chase delinquent accounts, they were more prone to bid. He added with six, the prices should be pretty competitive, they hope.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Mr. Karpiak and the Municipal Authority Board for the informational meeting, noting he learned a lot about the process.

Councilman Karpiak thanked Mr. Gunderson, Vernon Ohler, Solicitor Witt, and Husband. He stated without them, this would not have happened.

#### **COUNCILMAN TOPPER:**

Councilman Topper stated that Frank Jacobyanski, the Recreation Board President, told him the following resolution needs voted on and the Recreation Board worked very hard on it. (*Mr. Jacobyanski walked into the meeting earlier and then had to exit the meeting*). Councilman Topper stated the Recreation Board worked months on this and he feels that two courts now is better than none. He stated the people who play tennis there sent him a very nice thank you letter. He continued to note the people who play tennis there would be very upset if they got rid of the tennis courts. He added they have to take a lot of people into consideration and no one is better than anyone else. Councilman Topper stated they have to share space and see how it goes.

Councilman Karpiak stated Mountz Park tennis courts is ideal with parking and located. He added playing at East Park, the tennis balls end up in the creek. He stated he feels the tennis courts are needed there.

**Resolution No. 8-10-2023:** "To permit the Recreation Board to spend \$4,000.00 on removing the shuffle board courts, painting two pickleball courts and installing two nets at Mountz 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.

Councilman Topper reminded everyone that the Recreation Board is not funded by tax dollars. He added that it is solely donations. He noted anyone who wants to help out with the Recreation Board and help expand the services, please reach out.

#### **COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 8-11-2023:** “To promote William Bukovac to the position of "Painter/Truck Driver" effective immediately, with salary to come out of line item 430.141.”

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. 8-12-2023:** “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.