

**Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
APRIL 17, 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:

City of Connellsville - Purple Heart City

Daniel Cocks, Fayette County Cultural Trust, noted Connellsville has numerous Purple Heart recipients and is the second City in the State of Pennsylvania to become a "Purple Heart City."

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bernie Paffery, President of Chapter 5 Rolling Thunder, thanked the City for becoming a Purple Heart City and thanked the veterans and all who attending the meeting.

Proclamation read by Mayor Greg Lincoln: Sons and daughters of Connellsville who were wounded in combat or gave their lives defending our freedom

Mayor Lincoln thanked Daniel Cocks for his hard work on making the City a Purple Heart City, noting he was honored to be a part of it.

Councilwoman Tzan thanked the veterans and thanked Daniel Cocks for all of his work to make this happen. Tzan also noting Representative Warner is in Harrisburg and wanted to be there to thank all of the veterans for their sacrifices for our freedom.

Mayor Lincoln added the reason there is a meeting tonight is because of their sacrifices.

Lauren Nedrow and Taylor Triggs, Girl Scouts, stating they would like to have a "Ghost Walk" around the City as a fundraiser for a trip to Savana called "The Mystery of Connellsville. They added they would like to have it over Memorial weekend and begin at the Girl Scout Little House. Triggs added they would hold lanterns and tell stories while dressed up and walking throughout the City. She noted tickets could be bought at McCusker Safe and Lock, buy them at the Geranium Festival or call 724-628-0130.

Mayor Lincoln requested Nedrow and Triggs bring in a flyer for the City to share on social media.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

New Haven Hose Flag request

Resolution No. 4-1-2018: "To sign a contract with New Haven Hose Company Volunteer Fire Department for two 50-star large American Flags, mounted on a pole and displayed in front of City Hall and in front of the Police Department on ten holidays. Total cost for the contract will be \$80.00."

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.

Chamber of Commerce request for street closure from August 8th through August 10, 2018

Resolution No. 4-2-2018: "To permit the Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce permission to close off South Third Street from 9:00 PM August 8, 2018 until 6:00 AM August 10, 2018, for their annual "Savor the Avenue" event, pending approval of the Police Chief and Fire Chief."

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.

Somerset Trust request for street closure on June 26, 2018

Resolution No. 4-3-2018: "To close North Seventh Street and the adjacent alley between St. John's Church and Somerset Trust from 6 PM - 10:30 PM on June 26, 2018 for Somerset Trust's Car Cruise/Concert; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

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.

Paint Room request for street closure on June 16, 2018

Resolution No. 4-4-2018: "To grant The Paint Room permission to close the parking lot at West Apple Street and Meadow Lane off from 10:00 AM to Noon on Saturday June 16, 2018 for their annual bike run."

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.

John Woodruff Club, 5K Run/Walk, July 11, 2018

Resolution No. 4-5-2018: "To temporarily close the streets outlined on the attached Route Detail Sheet on July 11, 2018 to allow for John Woodruff's 37th Annual 5K Run and Walk; Race to begin at 7 PM and end at 8 PM; further authorizing the Police Department to assist with traffic control; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief."

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. 4-6-2018: "To approve the minutes from the March 20, 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. 4-7-2018: "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

VIDEO CAMERA CUT OUT

Proclamation: Business and Professional Women's Club

Resolution No. 4-8-2018: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE CONNELLSVILLE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY EXTENDING THE TERM OF EXISTENCE OF THE AUTHORITY TO A DATE FIFTY (50) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH."

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. 4-9-2018: "To hire Edward Younkin as a Part Time Dispatcher for the Connellsville Police Department at an hourly rate of \$7.75 per hour; not to exceed 35 hours per week money to be taken from line item 410.145."

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. 4-10-2018: "To grant Highlands Hospital permission to widen the alley along the old Zachariah Connell school traveling east. The purpose of this is for a parking entrance behind the building and letting traffic travel both east and west on said alley to and from entrance; all cost to be absorbed by Highlands Hospital."

Mayor Lincoln announced he is excited about this resolution because it means they are moving forward which will create jobs in the City.

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. 4-11-2018: "To place out for bid a 2013 Chevy Impala police cruiser. Vehicle will be sold in as is condition. All bids must be accompanied by a Certified Check for 10% of the bid price. Bids will be accepted up until 4 PM on May 14, 2018, at City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425."

Hammerle stated this is old car #40, a black Chevy Impala.

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. 4-12-2018: "To grant the City Clerk permission to sign off on any needed paperwork for the sale of the 2013 Chevy Impala."

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. 4-13-2018: “To modify their FFY 2015 CDBG Program as follows and to direct the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority to file the appropriate paperwork with DCED:

1. To modify the City’s FFY 2015 CDBG Program to change the Recreation activity location from Mountz Park to Second Ward Playground.

2. To Modify the City’s FFY 2015 CDBG Program to eliminate the Sidewalk Activity and reallocate the \$41,000 to the Road Reconstruction Project – new activity Budget:

\$ 162,000, as well as change the location from Murphy Avenue to Francis Avenue.”

Mayor Lincoln stated once this resolution is passed the Redevelopment Authority will resubmit to the DCED and hopefully they will respond quickly so we can begin paving Francis Avenue and putting in sidewalks.

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:

April 19th, Dads Matter at Carnegie Library, 11 AM - Noon, “Earn while you learn”, 724-430-4907

Recycling Days: April 24th, 25th, May 15th, 16th, 29th and 30th

April 21st, Porter Theater’s Blue Grass/Moongrass, 5 PM, for info: Porter Theater on Facebook

April 21st, General Braddock’s Fish Club will stock 750 fish; they will be at Crawford Bridge at 9 AM and Memorial Bridge at 10 AM

April 24th, Comprehensive Plan Meeting, Murphy Hall, 4 PM - 7 PM. Mayor Lincoln stated he is urging all citizens and business owners to attend this meeting. He added this is a very important meeting.

April 26th, Last day to mail Rotary Club Grant requests. Applications are available at City Hall. Requests are for improvements that will benefit the City and as many people as possible.

April 28th, (rescheduled from the 7th) Clean-up Connellsville, 724-320-6073

May 5th, Community Yard Sales

May 5th, Fayette Co. Hard To Recycle at the fairgrounds, 9 AM - 2 PM

May 5th, Amish Donuts at PNC’s Lot, 8 AM – Noon

May 24th, Mayor Lincoln added there will be a signup sheet for a Walk-a-bout in the City. He added it will be from 6 PM – 8 PM and begin at City Hall.

May 12th, Fayette Co. Train Day at the Canteen, FREE

May 12th, Clean-up Day in Connellsville. Put items out the night before.

May 12th, Kids Day, Memorial Bridge by Yough Park, 10 AM - 1 PM, free food, 724-626-0872

May 19th, New Haven Hose’s Neon Nights 5K beginning 8:30 PM

Councilman Keedy announced May 3rd Carnegie Library will have a celebration in honor of their 115-year anniversary.

KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy announced the money is coming in and the budget is on track.

TAPE CUT OFF

Mayor Lincoln and City Treasurer Marilyn Weaver discussed Business Licenses being collected.

Weaver announced they have collected \$7,250.00.

Lincoln stated in order to work in the City, you must have a business license from the City. He added Council and employees along with residents are watching and checking with the Tax Office to ensure all businesses have a license.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 4-14-2018: "To open all bids for the 2018 Street Paving Program."

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.

Bids were opened as follows:

El Grande Industry, Inc., \$122,426.60

Folino Construction, Inc., \$111,980.40

Morgan Excavating LP, \$118,128.70

Derry Construction Company, Inc., \$125,525.00

Victor Paving and Construction, \$109,891.50

Ligonier Construction, \$149,405.00

Resolution No. 4-15-2018: "To accept the bid of Victor Paving in the amount of \$109,891.50 for the 2018 Street Paving Program; Money to be paid by County LSA Grant and City Liquid Fuels Account; pending review and approval of City Solicitor."

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. 4-16-2018: "To hire Aaron Nickelson, Dean Peterson, & Shane Mancuso as summer worker(s) for the Public Works Department at a rate of \$7.50 per hour for a maximum of 35 hours per week for the summer season, such cost to be taken from line item 01430-145."

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. 4-17-2018: "To place out for bid materials (as per PennDOT Pub. 408 & TC-8800 Standards) and labor for upgrades on local traffic lights and equipment at numerous intersections within the City of Connellsville. Bids packets will be available on the Widmer Engineering site and bids will be received until 4:00 PM on May 14, 2018 at Widmer Engineering's office at 225 West Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425. Funding through Penn DOTs, Green Light Go Grant and the City's Liquid Fuels Account."

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.

TZAN:

Councilwoman Tzan announced summer camp signups will be soon. She noted there will be volleyball, tennis, basketball, soccer and flag football with possibly cross-country. Tzan stated it will be one and a half to two-hour sessions twice a week. She stated you can signup online by going to the website or the Recreation Board's Facebook Page. Tzan stated information will be given to the schools to send home with the children.

Resolution No. 4-18-2018: "To approve the use of Woodruff Field for the Connellsville Softball League to play on Sundays beginning April 22, 2018 until September 16, 2018; league to be charged a rate of \$150.00 per team. The league is also responsible for their own liability insurance."

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. 4-19-2018: "To appoint Tracy Peterson to the Connellsville Recreation Board effectively immediately; term to expire the first Monday in January 2019."

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 reminded residents to book their pavilion rentals now due to dates being taken so quickly as summer gets closer. He noted Mountz Creek will have new tennis and shuffle board courts. Mayor Lincoln thanked the Williams Company that adopted the City and added they have a Day of Caring each year and made upgrades to the City's parks. He stated they may put fencing in Mountz Park on May 2nd for their Day of Caring this year.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report

Councilman Topper reminded residents to keep their grass cut.

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper stated New Haven Hose had their Amtrak training and had a "river rescue" that allowed them to use their new boat.

Mayor Lincoln stated New Haven needs 4 wet suits to go with their new boat. He added the wet suits are about \$1,300.00. He further asked that if any business or organization would like to adopt New Haven Hose and hold a fundraiser to purchase the wet suits, please get in contact with Councilman Topper. Mayor Lincoln added that the river rescue proves how much they need the suits and it is tax deductible.

Councilman Topper added their annual fundraiser letters will be coming out soon.

Resolution No. 4-20-2018: "To introduce Bill No. 1 of 2018; To introduce AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, IMPLEMENTING A VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHING CREDITS FOR CITY EARNED INCOME TAX OR CITY REAL ESTATE TAXES ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS AND ESTABLISHING RULES AND PROCEDURES TO CLAIM SUCH CREDIT.

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has adopted Act 172 of 2016 allowing tax credits for Volunteer First Responders,"

Councilman Topper explained most cities have to lean on volunteer fire departments due to cutbacks. He added it is getting harder and harder to find volunteers. He explained Representative Warner introduced this

bill to allow cities to give a tax credit or property tax rebate to volunteer first responders who join. Councilman Topper stated if you live in the City of Connellsville and join a volunteer fire department outside the city limits, you are eligible for the tax rebate. He noted in order to receive the credit, you must be very active. He further explained in order to receive the first level (Firefighter #1) of \$200, you must make at least 50% of the fire calls or 50% of fundraisers. Councilman Topper stated there is a second level (Firefighter #2) which is an additional \$200. He explained in order to receive that credit you must make the first level of 50% of calls or fundraisers and several training levels you can achieve. He added you can take 68 hours of State Certified Training or pass your fourth module. Councilman Topper expressed in order to pass your fourth module, you will have completed over 160 hours of training. He stated is very difficult to complete all the hours needed.

Mayor Lincoln stated this is also a good way to say thank you for putting your life on the line.

Councilman Karpiak stated he would like to see the State, County and School District get involved and give a tax credit. He added he has faith in New Haven Hose and counts on the Chiefs to be leaders in their community. Councilman Karpiak noted that he is concerned with the bookkeeping end of this ordinance. He expressed this should be on the Tax Office and not the City Clerk.

Mayor Lincoln answered the City needs to get the auditor's input on where it should go.

Councilman Karpiak stated he spoke to accountants and they said it would add costs to what they do. He asked how this would be verified with Southwest and noted that could cause you to pay more money when getting your taxes done (because of the extra steps the accountant will have to go through).

TAPE GAVE OUT

Solicitor Witt explained coordinating with Southwest Regional Tax Bureau and getting forms together.

Councilman Topper stated the State has done a Tax Credit before and Southwest is aware and familiar with the process so there shouldn't be issues on their end. He added the list must be notarized and there is a review period.

Councilman Keedy agreed that New Haven volunteers deserve this.

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

Resolution No. 4-21-2018: "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.