

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2024

This meeting of the Connellsville City Council was held this evening at 5:00 PM. Attending this meeting was Council members Addis, Keedy, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Rev. Matt Goldsberry

Resolution No. 1-1-2024: "To appoint Christian Korba as City Controller; term to expire the first Monday of 2026."

Solicitor Witt notified City Council to ask for public comment on the resolution before they vote on it.

There was no public comment on the resolution.

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

Mayor Lincoln stated that Judge Haggerty will officially swear in Mr. Korba.

Solicitor Witt stated Mr. Korba will need his Affidavit of Residency and Bond before he takes an Oath of Office.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Lincoln reminded speakers they are limited to three minutes to speak.

Rick Adobato, Chief of Operations at Fayette EMS spoke first. He stated Robert Topper, Administrative Director, is with him as well as Matt McKnight, Assistant Chief. He stated he wants to give a report to the City since they are the designated ambulance for the City. He noted he usually emails his reports monthly and will continue to do so.

Chief Adobato noted in the month of December they had 131 9-1-1 calls in the City of Connellsville and 1,627 calls for the entire year. He reiterated that is just in the City of Connellsville. He added the company had over 18,000 9-1-1 calls throughout the 29 municipalities they serve. Mr. Adobato offered to answer any questions that Council may have.

Chief Adobato then discussed that due to the bridge closing, Fayette EMS had requested to use the East Side Fire Hall to house ambulance and personnel. He stated they did that for one week to get an idea of what would be going on. He continued they are there at 6 AM until 7 PM. Mr. Adobato explained there is more than just moving an ambulance in a building. He continued that he has a paid staff and needs to solve it tonight. He notified council that he had to put a computer in the building so his employees could

do their paperwork and a television. He added he cannot have his employees sitting on metal chairs for sixteen hours if there is a day without a call, which is few and far between. He informed council that he needs to be able to move some type of furniture in the building so they will not have to use the metal chairs.

Chief Adobato then informed City Council that he is aware they need the fire hall for certain events in the City. He stated they need to find a different way to have them on this side of the City while those events are going on, adding he is not sure how they are going to do that and would like some guidance from the Mayor and City Council on how to do that.

Mayor Lincoln questioned what the issue is as far as moving the truck out of the building for four hours.

Chief Adobato stated that is not a problem. He answered the issue is the items they have in the building which they could move out and back in. Mr. Adobato questioned where do they go for those hours during the event.

Mayor Lincoln stated he would like to have New Haven Hose and Fayette EMS visible and available during the events. He added the bottom of the building is there for use as well as the parking for Fayette EMS.

It was discussed using another room in the upstairs of the building. Mayor Lincoln requested that room be cleared out for Fayette EMS to use. Further he requested Fayette EMS receive a key to the room which locks. Mayor Lincoln added this would only be for Tangled Up in Vines. He noted the Geranium Festival will be done on the side of the building.

Councilman Topper stated he needs the building for Tangled Up In Vines from 9 AM to 5 Pm or 10 PM to 6 PM on April 27th.

Council discussed options with Mr. Adobato and came to the agreement to use an upstairs room that locks and will be cleared out for him to move furniture in for his employees.

Chief Adobato then discussed finances and their request for funds from the City. He reiterated it was an "ask" and not a "demand." Mr. Adobato added they are in a negative predicament and need \$300,000 which is why they came up with \$3 a head.

Bob Topper, Sr. Administrative Director, spoke next. He explained how the City paid firemen once ran the Connellsville Ambulance until it was strictly volunteers who came and went. He added in 1990 the budget was \$96,000 and now it is over 13 Million Dollars, there are staffing shortages. Mr. Topper stressed they need to make it a career so they can train and hold the employees. He discussed the salary, what employees need to stay and the work environment along with the finances they need to keep employees. Mr. Topper stated they asked the State, County and Municipalities for support. He added that he does not want to get to the end of the year and not have finances to support the staffing. He clarified if they do not have the financial support, they may end up losing people again. Mr. Topper

asked the City Council to try and find the additional funds, approximately \$19,000 after the \$2,500 already given.

Chief Adobato stated it is \$21,093 based on the population head.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this is a one time ask or is this something they are asking to be put in the budget every year.

Robert Topper, Sr. replied they are attempting this to be a one-time ask. He explained they have had meetings with the Commissioners and there is legislation in Harrisburg right now that would allow the county to create an EMS Authority to create a funding mechanism and they would subsidize all the ambulance services in the county. Mr. Topper explained the process and how it would work.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this is something the City can do twice a year when City taxes come in.

Robert Topper, Sr. suggested they all talk about it in front of all the details. He added they are asking for cooperation.

Mayor Lincoln replied they all want to cooperate but need to find that extra money in the budget.

Councilman Keedy stated they will have to look at the budget that is balanced. He added they want to do whatever they can to help and will look at the numbers.

Robert Topper, Sr. stated they need long term sustainable financial support.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if they can receive a portion of the settlement money the County is receiving for the next eighteen years.

Chief Adobato replied you would think so, but no.

Mayor Lincoln questioned how they can find out what the rules and stipulations are. He added that Fayette EMS is in the middle of fighting the opioid crisis.

Chief Adobato explained there are rules and stipulations on how they can spend that money. He explained some of their calls that they do not get paid for and explained their subscription plan.

Robert Topper, Sr. informed City Council that they mailed subscription plan letters in 2023 and only received 7.8% back. He added if they could get 30% back, they would not be in attendance tonight. He stated they wrote of \$567,000 in bad debt in 2023 with the majority being copays that people cannot pay. He thanked Rep. Warner and Senator Stefano for all they have done over the years as far as Medicaid and EMS goes.

Mayor Lincoln stated he would like to have Rep. Warner and Senator Stefano amend their Third-Class City Code so they can have a Fire Tax which would help them come up with the money to help. He stated

when the fireworks were legalized, the tax was to go to an ambulance and fire fund. He continued that over 5 billion in fireworks was sold last year in Pennsylvania, so there is a fund with hundreds of millions of dollars in it that should be for ambulance services to never worry again. Mayor Lincoln continued stating unfortunately, the state took that out of the budget and are raising the tax on fireworks, again. He added that now is the time for the state to do the right thing and take six percent of the eighteen percent and put it in a fund for the ambulance services.

Robert Topper, Jr. added that it will not be long before fire departments are facing the same thing. He noted Connellsville and surrounding areas are very lucky to have good fire departments. He added the ability for the City to put a millage to “buy a new fire truck like Everson Borough did,” is mind blowing that boroughs can do it, but City’s cannot.

Mayor Lincoln agreed that it makes no sense.

Robert Topper, Sr. clarified that there should be an established fund for both fire and ambulance services.

Tim Ritenour spoke next concerning feral cats on the southside and how they are destroying his land and property. He questioned what can be done.

Mayor Lincoln motioned for Tom Currey, Code Officer, to answer that question.

Tom Currey answered the City has nothing and all he can do is cite anyone leaving food on their porch to feed them. He stated other than that, there is nothing the city can do.

Mayor Lincoln added the City is trying to figure out how to give money to Fayette EMS, so they do not have money to deal with feral cats.

Mr. Ritenour and city council continued to discuss the situation.

Councilman Topper suggested the city keep a list of non-profits that we can hand out.

Mayor Lincoln stated he believes it is on the Health Department’s page on the website. He reiterated the non-profit is a trap, neuter, and release program and that is the rules they have to abide by. He added that after they are fixed, they have a certain life-span and die out.

Mr. Ritenour stated he understands there is nothing council can do, but feels something needs to be done. He asked council to set money aside so they can pay to have the cats taken.

Mayor Lincoln noted they were going to put \$10,000 in a fund with Connellsville Township, they met with a vet and it was going to start and then COVID hit and that was it.

Mr. Ritenour questioned if something was in the works.

Mayor Lincoln answered the City was going to work side by side with Connellsville Township and put money into a fund, they found a vet who was going to do it for a certain amount of \$30 or \$40. He added they were trying to figure how many cats they could do and keep the program funded.

Mr. Ritenour stated he knows that Tom Currey has more important things to do than drive around looking for food on people's porches. He noted he would like to see this program come about.

Mayor Lincoln stated when Tom gets a property to look at, he looks at the neighbors and checks everything since he is there.

City Clerk Ohler questioned Mr. Ritenour if the people feeding the cats at his location are all city residents.

Mr. Ritenour replied that one is a city resident and the other lives in South Connellsville. He thanked council for their time.

Mayor Lincoln asked Mr. Ritenour to give his address to Tom Currey and he can circle back to the property. He added if land owners who own multiple properties would pay their taxes, the City would have the \$21,000 to give.

Greg Voss, Connellsville Area Ministerial Association spoke regarding The National Day of Prayer. He stated they are working with the Bible Club at the school and all the churches in the area. He questioned if the plaza would be available with all the construction.

City Clerk Ohler suggested the time of the pray be moved to the evening due to the loud construction sounds during the day.

Mayor Lincoln stated he would love for the pray to be in the evening because of his full-time job during the day, he cannot make it then.

Mr. Voss stated they want to know if it is not a good idea for people to be down here while there is construction and if the plaza is even available.

Mayor Lincoln stated the road is closed so it would be safe.

Mr. Voss noted if it is available, he will follow up since Pastor Don is in bad health right now.

Mayor Lincoln instructed the association to put in a letter of request to use the plaza for National Day of Prayer and City Council will approve it at the February meeting. He thanked the Ministerial Association for working together and doing so much for the community.

Tom Karpiak spoke next. He stated everyone has heard the bad and worse about the people who have been transported, the Narcan being used and people ripping you off and using you for income. He noted his granddaughter is alive today because of Fayette EMS. He stated "It was a miracle. She is very allergic

to nuts, dairy, and pets...big time. EpiPens, we carry a bag with us everywhere we go. We were in Church and someone touched her that had peanut butter before and she had a reaction. It is that bad." He stated his daughter had to pull over to give her a shot when one of the children in the car spotted Fayette EMS's ambulance across the street from where she was. Mr. Karpiak stated "That saved her life." He noted EMS can carry Narcan but not EpiPens. He continued that they (Fayette EMS) still took it out of the bottle and gave his granddaughter a shot, noting it was a life and death situation with Fayette EMS getting the job done. He thanked Fayette EMS. Mr. Karpiak added as far as relying on the State to do this, "we don't follow the state or we would be in debt as much as they are." He continued it is up to the City to find a way to fund Fayette EMS. He noted he understands this is not the time and place for money, but he spoke to the solicitor and Fayette EMS and is suggesting putting fifty-cents on a garbage bill. He continued that he likes the idea, however there was a big garbage raise. Mr. Karpiak clarified that this way everyone is participating. He asked Mr. Adobato why they send subscription letters out at Christmas time. He stated on the outside, this is a controversial subject because people are petty comparing valuables and questioning why they need money. Mr. Karpiak added that some questions do need to be answered like acquiring Tri-Conn which is a private business. He asked how Tri-State is doing and if good, why is that money not coming over to the non-profit side. He also asked if they have expired every avenue to collect what is owed to them. He clarified that these are some things that should be put out in the public so that answers can be given.

Mayor Lincoln asked Fayette EMS if they would like to answer the Tri-Conn question.

Robert Topper, Sr. answered they formed Tri-Conn years ago because it is a subsidiary of Fayette EMS so the non-profit owns the for profit. He noted there is no one getting rich off of that. He stated "We created that because we were with the wheelchair ramp business, we were creating too much unrelated business income affecting our non-profit status." He added the people who do not generate income all work for Tri-Conn and Fayette EMS pays Tri-Conn to manage them. Mr. Topper stated they have been able to reduce that bill every year because the money that Tri-Conn is generating with some of our other services. He announced that they do drug and alcohol with the county through Tri-Conn, Case Management for addicted mothers and babies, a plan with BC/BS with all their GAP coverage and so on. He added they have been able to generate revenue and were able to put \$250,000 back to Fayette EMS. Mr. Topper noted as community medicine grows and they generate revenue from that, it will trim down what Fayette EMS has to pay.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Robert Topper, Sr. for his answer and noted it is on video.

Tom Karpiak stated that this would be an investment from the City to Fayette EMS. He noted that all City's monies are community monies, therefore in essence everyone is chipping in to help Fayette EMS and to save lives. Mr. Karpiak stated there are a lot of kids like his granddaughter and the City needs to step up somehow.

Rev. Matt Goldsberry stated he is a life-long resident of Connellsville. He stated he is thankful to the City and mentioned that Fayette EMS presented a critical need of finances. He added he gives a shout out to all the first responders, Fayette EMS, Police, Street Department, and he thanked everyone on City

Council. He asked everyone to support Fayette EMS. Rev. Goldsberry questioned the parking on one side of the street during winter for the plows to get down streets in the winter to plow them.

Mayor Lincoln stated the only way for the City to enforce the parking on one side of the street during the winter is to spend thousands of dollars on street signs. He stated if people would park on one side of the street during the winter, then the streets could be cleared.

Rev. Goldsberry thanked everyone and noted he is praying for all of the businesses affected by the bridge closure.

Matt McKnight, Assistant Chief, Fayette EMS, stated he worked a twenty-four-hour shift at the Fire Station and they were busy with eleven calls on this side of the bridge. He added the calls were during the daylight when there would have been traffic and bridge issues and Fayette EMS was able to prove they can step up and conquer the bridge issues. He informed council they determined there is not a need to 24-hour coverage and will scale it back to 13-hour coverage on this side of the bridge. He thanked everyone for their time.

Mayor Lincoln thanked everyone for being on this side of the bridge to serve the citizens and stated they (council) appreciate them. He added they will look at the budget and see where they can come up with the money to help them. He noted March is when the money starts coming in, therefore it will be at least March.

Councilman Topper thanked Fayette EMS for working with them on the events that will be at the fire hall. He added he was a little upset and apologized.

Chief Adobato questioned if the Fourth of July festival will be held again this year.

Mayor Lincoln stated they still have time to figure that out.

Councilman Keedy stated he believes it will be July 6th and the plan is to have it here. He added they will know by the next council meeting and the only spot to put off fireworks is across from City Hall.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

Charles Matthews, City Treasurer, stated council has in the packets a report from former City Treasurer, Marilyn Weaver, which is a profit/loss report. He stated he does not have a report since he has only been there a few days and noted Councilman Keedy would know more than he does right now.

Councilman Keedy stated the money does not come in until March.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Phyllis Kovall, Connellsville Garden Club Geranium Festival, Request to use Fire Hall

Resolution No. 1-2-2024: "To grant permission to the Connellsville Garden Club to use East Side Fire Hall on Thursday, May 16, 2024, Friday, May 17, 2024 and Saturday, May 18, 2024 for their annual Geranium Fundraiser; further authorizing traffic control by the Police Auxiliary upon approval of the Police Chief."

Mayor Lincoln suggested passing the resolution this evening and working out the details later since it is being held in Mayor. He added this is a huge fundraiser for the Garden Club who takes care of all of the flowers throughout the City. Mayor Lincoln stated they will figure out something that is helpful for the Garden Club and not disruptive to New Haven and Fayette EMS in the fire hall.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 1-3-2024: "To accept the minutes from the December 19, 2023 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 1-4-2024: "To accept the minutes from the January 2, 2024 City Council's Reorganization Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 1-5-2024: "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 Addis, 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 thanked Chief Hammerle and stated he appreciates him. He added that the Chief's competence keeps his stress level low. Mayor Lincoln stated Chief Hammerle left his home at 11 PM at night over an incident and stayed there until 7 AM until the State Police investigated everything. He noted the Chief handled it professionally and worked all weekend over the incident. Mayor Lincoln continued that the city lost power twice in a week and the police handled it well. He stated he wants everyone to know that during the power outages, that was not the only thing going on. Mayor Lincoln stated "We had guys going to South Connellsville, Highlands Hospital and 911 calls do not stop. I appreciate the department and what they guys do. It is not easy and is stressful and I just want to thank you for that."

Chief Hammerle thanked Mayor Lincoln.

Councilman Topper asked for an update to the Body Cams.

Chief Hammerle replied the new server that was sent to him was a bad one. He continued the company that makes and assembles the server and other equipment for Motorola, called Motorola and is trying to get them to fix the server. He noted they are overnighing parts to install and fix it. Chief Hammerle stated he had an argument with this guy and told him, no, we purchased a brand-new piece of equipment and they want to fix it. He informed council he told the guy he wants a new one and is waiting for that to come in. He added once it comes in, they will send a guy to spends two days getting it set up.

Mayor Lincoln questioned once that is done, then the training on the Body Cams begins.

Chief Hammerle answered yes. He informed council they have the Body Cams; however, they cannot use them right now without the server. He added the cams would have been great to have during the incidents, the investigation is over, and there is no wrong doing by the Connellsville Police Department.

CDBG and CV Programs Report

Resolution No. 1-6-2024: "A Resolution of the City of Connellsville, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Competitive Program, as authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act [42 USC 5301 and 24 CFR Part 570], and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program."

Solicitor Witt explained this authorized the submission for additional funding from the CDBG Program.

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

Resolution No. 1-7-2024: “To sign the SHELTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT (this “Agreement”) made this 16th day of January, 2024, by and between the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania, a political subdivision and fourth class county and Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation (FACT) a sub-agency thereof, both having an address at 60 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401 (collectively the “County”) and the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, a political subdivision and third class city having an office at 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, Pennsylvania 15425 (the “City”).”

City Clerk Ohler announced FACT is able to have a shelter by Bradley Paint. He added they got permission off of the owner of that parcel to have a shuttle run from here to over there while the bridge is under construction.

Mayor Lincoln thanked City Clerk, Vernon Ohler, for his work on the shuttle run shelter.

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

Resolution No 1-8-2024: “To promote Brian Harvey to the position of Corporal for the Connellsville Police Department effective March 1, 2024; wages are set through the Collective Bargaining Unit of the Police Department.”

Mayor Lincoln stated this position came open when Hominsky was promoted to Captain. He continued that under the guidelines, they have to fill the Corporal position. He stated Brian Harvey was the lone candidate they could promote.

Chief Hammerle stated he was on the eligibility list, so they did not need to retest.

Mayor Lincoln questioned how long Harvey has worked for the City.

Chief Hammerle answered it will be coming up on 15 years.

Mayor Lincoln added Harvey has put his time in with the City.

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

Mayor Lincoln questioned when Harvey will be sworn in.

Chief Hammerle answered at the next City Council Meeting.

Resolution No. 1-9-2024: “To close Meadow Lane from Crawford Avenue to Orchard Alley each Sunday in June, July and August 2024 from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM for the safety of residents attending the Lions Club’s Summer Concert Series; pending review and approval of Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned Chief Hammerle if he sees an issue with closing the alley Sunday night.

Chief Hammerle answered no.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned that being the last turn after Pittsburgh Street off of Crawford Avenue.

Mayor Lincoln stated they will have to take a left at the Canteen and there will be enough Police Auxiliary around to guide them. He also suggested they turn on Apple Street to get there. He noted they will clear the alley to allow for the ambulance to get through, if needed.

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

Mayor Lincoln thanked everyone who wants to be on the volunteer boards, adding it helps the city tremendously and is a great way to be involved in the city. He thanked everyone who wants to be appointed to the boards.

Resolution No. 1-10-2024: “To appoint Jason Bandemer to the Connellsville Planning Commission; term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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

Resolution No. 1-11-2024: “To reappoint Luke Dyer to the Diversity and Inclusion Board; term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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

Resolution No. 1-12-2024: “To appoint Karen Sanzone to the Carnegie Library Board; term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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

Resolution No. 1-13-2024: “To appoint Charles Michael Comiskey to the Carnegie Library Board; term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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

Resolution No. 1-14-2024: “To reappoint Barbara Mongell to the Pension Board; term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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

Resolution No. 1-15-2024: “To reappoint Vincent Speer to the UCC Appeals Board; term to expire January 1, 2029.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if there have been any appeals.

City Clerk Ohler stated there have not been any appeals yet.

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

Resolution No. 1-16-2024: “To reappoint Vincent Traynor to the Police Civil Service Board; term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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

Resolution No. 1-17-2024: “To appoint Marilyn Weaver to the Redevelopment Authority; term to expire January 1, 2029.”

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

Resolution No. 1-18-2024: “To reappoint Barbara S. Bielecki to the Connellsville Housing Authority; term to expire January 1, 2029.”

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

Resolution No. 1-19-2024: "To reappoint Linda Galiardi to the Shade Tree Commission; term to expire January 1, 2029."

Mayor Lincoln stated he is excited to see what the Shade Tree Commission is going to do with the huge grant they received. He continued he hopes they can have discussions on the Pittsburgh Street trees and other trees.

City Clerk Ohler stated they will update the inventory and go from there.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is glad they have money to address the issues on Pittsburgh Street, Crawford Avenue and Eighth Street, which need to be addressed. He continued there is sidewalk damage on Pittsburgh Street and Crawford Avenue where there are disabled residents and the sidewalks are causing grief for them. He added he will be happy to have that issue fixed.

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

Mayor Lincoln thanked Shelley for keeping up on the board appointments and noted she works hard to get people to submit the letters and keeping up on it.

Reminders: Please email events to connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com

Mayor Lincoln thanked Central Fellowship for their free community lunch, noting they give all their food out every month.

Central Fellowship Church, 316 N Arch Street, Free Community Lunch
4th Saturday of the month beginning January through October at 11 AM until 12:30 PM
3rd Saturday of the month in November at 11 AM until 12:30 PM

Mayor Lincoln thanked Christian Church for their free community lunch, noting he is glad they are continuing this meal.

Christian Church of Connellsville, 212 S Pittsburgh Street, Free Community Lunch
Every Monday at 11:30 AM until 1 PM

Mayor Lincoln thanked Albright United Methodist Church for their free meal, noting they have a lot of food sales.

Albright United Methodist Church, 1626 S Pittsburgh Street, Free Blue Plate Special
Donations welcome. Take-outs \$5.00
January 23rd, 11 AM – 1 PM

Mayor Lincoln added this Saturday, Trinity Lutheran on Fairview Avenue is having a chicken and biscuits fundraiser dinner at their church, 12 noon until 5 PM. He explained the money they raise goes into a fund for their clothing drive, they buy new clothing for kids in the Connellsville School District. Mayor Lincoln asked residents to buy a dinner and support the program. He thanked Trinity Luther Church for creating this program.

Mayor Lincoln announced on January 1st, they had a 20th Annual Polar Bear Plunge. He thanked the Polar Bear Club for a fantastic tradition. He continued they had around 400 jumpers this year with around 600 people watching. He thanked Fayette EMS for being there and New Haven Hose for having their boat and Public Works for getting the park together and everyone who brought food for the food bank, the Police Auxiliary were there and the teachers gave out hot chocolate. Mayor Lincoln thanked everyone for supporting the Polar Bear Plunge.

Mayor Lincoln stated that Community Ministries had a flood caused by PA American's water main break. He continued the amount of people that showed up the next day to help clean and thanked Tim Dardar from PA American. He stated Tim was there for eight hours the next day pushing a broom. He explained when they tested the water in the basement, it had led in it. He continued that now PA American hires their disaster relief to go into the basement to get all the led out and redo the entire floor at PA American's cost. Mayor Lincoln thanked Tim for staying on top of the situation and making sure Community Ministries did not have to worry about the stress of that basement.

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 1-20-2024: "To designate City Controller, Christian Korba as signatory on all City bank and depository accounts; along with the Director of Accounts and Finance and City Treasurer."

Solicitor Witt noted that it is contingent upon him being sworn in and having all of his paperwork.

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

Resolution No. 1-21-2024: "To approve Christian Korba, City Controller to sign for the new signature cards for the City accounts along with the Director of Accounts and Finance and the City Treasurer."

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

Resolution No. 1-22-2024: “To transfer \$25,000 from the Investment Account into the Capital Improvement Account.”

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

Councilman Keedy explained the city will receive the \$25,000 back from the LSA money once the city spends the funds and put in for a reimbursement.

City Clerk Ohler noted there is two grants open and this will take care of the one, replenish the funds and take care of the other to get things done on the city’s end.

COUNCILMAN ADDIS:

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Addis stated New Haven’s Report and end of the year is in the packets and it was one of their record years on the number of calls and responses.

Health Officer’s Report

Councilman Addis stated the Health Officer has been out every day since he has been on council. He asked Tom Currey if he has anything he wants to add.

Tom Currey reminded residents that it is cold out and do not use extension cords on space heaters and keep things away from space heaters.

Fayette EMS Report was given at the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Lincoln thanked New Haven Hose, noting they do not just respond to fires, they cut down trees, go out in all weather, traffic control and whatever is needed.

Councilman Addis stated when 9-1-1 gives a call to Fayette EMS turns it down, the fire goes.

Mayor Lincoln thanked New Haven and Public Works for the storm cleanup. He added garbage was throughout the neighborhood since the garbage was not picked up.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated some people do not have lids on their cans and the garbage was not picked up today.

City Clerk Ohler answered it was a snow day.

Mayor Lincoln thanked New Haven Hose again, noting competent leaders reduces their stress.

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Councilman Topper announced the following events:

Update on Recreation Board events being planned:

Spring Fling at the Aaron's Building, March 21st

City Wide Cleanup, April 20th

Tangled Up in Vines, April 27th

McPoyle Kickball Tournament, McPoyle Field, May 25th

Yough River Rally, May 31st - June 2nd

Friends Day, East Park, June 23rd

Red White and Boom Festival, July 6th

Croquet Tournament, East Park, July 27th

Silent Film Festival, Community Center, September 7th

Tangled Up in Brew, Yough Park, October 5th

PE In the Park, East Park, Jason Bandemer, 724-433-9608

Resolution No. 1-23-2024: "To accept a donation from Braddock's Fish Club; a table with a plaque to be placed in Yough Park."

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the City will be involved in placing the table and if it would be where it is not disruptive to the flow at the park.

Councilman Topper stated it would be by the boat ramp and coffee, in that general area.

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

Resolution No. 1-24-2024: "To accept a donation from Brandon MacPherson; a Memory Bench to be placed at Mountz Creek Park."

Mayor Lincoln questioned where it would be placed at.

Councilman Topper replied there are several places it could be placed at.

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

Councilman Topper thanked Brandon MacPherson for the bench.

Resolution No. 1-25-2024: “To reappoint Tracy Peterson to the Connellsville Recreation Board; term to expire January 1, 2029.”

Councilman Topper stated Tracey has been with the Recreation Board for many years and he is glad to see her come back for another term.

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

Resolution No. 1-26-2024: “To reappoint Melissa Tzan to the Connellsville Recreation Board; term to expire January 1, 2029.”

Councilman Topper stated Melissa has also been around for many years and he is glad she came back for another term.

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

Councilman Topper stated the Recreation Board has extra money now that they can make work for them instead of sitting there idle. He noted the Recreation Board members make a great board and he is excited for the year.

COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 1-27-2024: “To submit a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Cooperative Purchasing Program known as CO STARS enabling the City of Connellsville to participate in the Department of General Services statewide contract for sodium chloride for the August 2024 through the July 2025 season.”

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

Mayor Lincoln thanked Public Works, noting they were out all night and he had no issues getting to work.

Resolution No. 1-28-2024: “That this meeting of the City Council does hereby adjourn.”

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