

**Connellsville City Council MINUTES**  
**5 PM - FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Rev. Bob Strader

OATH OF OFFICE: BRIAN HARVEY, CORPORAL, GIVEN BY MAYOR GREG LINCOLN

**REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ronald Haggerty, Jr., Braddock's Fish Club, Request to use Yough River Park for the Yough River Rally

Ronald Haggerty, Jr. requested use of the Yough River Park on behalf of Braddock's Fish Club to sponsor the Yough River Rally in 2024. He stated the dates are May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also requested use of the entire park, a smoking area and to permit the Recreation Board to apply for a Liquor License.

Renee Shipley, Republic Services, stated she is planning an open house this year to see what is happening with their landfill, who they are and what they do. She added they are working on a LANDFILL GASED ENERGY PROJECT. She stated is council should need addition first response that they also do that now, not just trash and recycling. Ms. Shipley added if they do need assistance with first response, just contact her and she will put it in motion.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Ms. Shipley for attending the meeting to give an update. He noted complaints on Commercial dumpsters are far and few between. He added they appreciate their service, they are doing well so far, and glad there is communication between them.

Sue Rozell discussed County Hauling and the refunds that are due to people. She stated she called County Hauling regarding the refunds and was told that they will "Get to them. We have a lot of refunds to process." She stated she contacted County Hauling again in December regarding the refund due her. She was told "I do not know what the problem is. I will look into it." Ms. Rozell stated she then called them in the beginning of January and middle of January and asked what the problem is with the refunds. She also asked how much money does County Hauling have floating that is due to the residents. She added that they may not care or intend to refund the money. Ms. Rozell stated she contacted Vernon Ohler and he tried to contact County Hauling to find out where the refunds are with no luck. She stated Mr. Ohler gave her a contact number which she called and asked to speak with that person's manager. Ms. Rozell stated she asked to speak to the refund department and was denied and was still not given answers. She noted she called the middle of February and asked to speak to someone about the refunds and stated she is going to a council meeting over this. She added the person stated she would look into it and call her back but never did. Ms. Rozell stated she called again last week and spoke with customer service and was told "Your refund was just sent to the refund department yesterday." She clarified her check was cashed in September and just went to the refund department. She continued that if it holds

true that she will get the refund, that will be six months for a refund. She stated if they had to wait for six months to get paid, people would hear about it. Ms. Rozell questioned council as to why they cannot do something about this and take steps and how would County Hauling feel if the City does not pay them for service.

Mayor Lincoln stated that is exactly what the Municipal Authority is discussing right now. He added they contacted County Hauling and told them they want the refunds sent out now and if they are not, we will withhold payment. Mayor Lincoln also added no matter what service County Hauling provides; they get 100% payment.

Sue Rozell stated County Hauling no long has to bill the entire City of Connellsville. She questioned how much they owe residents.

Solicitor Witt stated they are not prohibited from releasing that information to the City.

Mayor Lincoln informed Ms. Rozell that Vernon Ohler meets with the Municipal Authority once a month. He continued they are discussing putting up a Facebook post to try and gather information.

Sue Rozell stated not everyone uses Facebook.

Mr. Ohler stated everyone needs to have evidence like a bank statement showing that payment was taken from them.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is hopeful the newspaper will get with the Municipal Authority for a discussion and have an article put in the courier.

Sue Rozell asked what the process is to get refunds from County Hauling.

Mr. Ohler read a text from his contact at County Hauling. He noted he asked his contact when the refund will be given. The text was as follows: "We will send it to corporate by Friday and it will be 30 to 45 days to process it."

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she is not taking County Hauling's side, and wants to know where they are at with delinquent accounts and do the residents still owe them money. She added it may look like they are floating it, but they make just be trying to keep .... I do not know.

Sue Rozell replied that is apples and oranges as far as she is concerned.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she is trying to look at them as a business.

Sue Rozell replied that they (County Hauling) are still using the resident's money for other purposes.

Councilwoman Tiberio replied operationally and there are a lot of delinquent accounts.

Sue Rozell stated she appreciates that input, but she feels that it is a separate issue.

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:** Charles Matthews

City Treasurer, Charles Matthews, stated they are ready to send the Real Estate Taxes out next week.

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:** Absent

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 2-1-2024:** "To accept the minutes from the January 16, 2024 City Council Meeting."

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

**Resolution No. 2-2-2024:** "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, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report by Captain Andy Hominsky

Mayor Lincoln discussed the traffic backup today and how they need better communication with Penn DOT.

Chief Hammerle stated he has to have permission from Penn DOT to shut down Crawford Avenue for a half hour and now I have to inform the State Police of the closure in case they have emergency calls in that area. He added he has to do that well in advance and yet he finds out about the construction in our City by rolling upon it. He stated he got out of the car and asked them what was going on which led him to questioned why the City was not informed.

Mayor Lincoln questioned Chief Hammerle how the meeting with Motorola went today regarding the body cams.

Chief Hammerle stated the guy from Motorola was in today and will be in tomorrow figuring out the new server. He added they will schedule training on the body cams within the next month.

City Council and Chief Hammerle discussed the current traffic situation due to the bridge project.

CDBG and CV Programs Report

**Resolution No. 2-3-2024:** “For Connellsville Council’s full support for developing the “Bridging Connellsville Transportation Alternatives in the Laurel Highlands with Urban Loops, Rail Trails, and Bridge Park” through a US Department of Transportation RAISE Grant for project planning, design, and cost estimating.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-4-2024:** “To accept the resignation of Jennifer Bradmon retroactive to February 14, 2024.”

Chief Hammerle stated she claims to have a better offer in Uniontown that pays more, so she moved on.

Mayor Lincoln stated that is unfortunate and the City does not have the resources to pay double.

Chief Hammerle noted he and the captain have taken over her responsibilities until a new assistant is hired.

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

**Resolution No 2-5-2024:** “To advertise to hire a Police Secretary for the Connellsville Police Department.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-6-2024:** “To permit the City Clerk to apply for a SPC, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC) PROGRAM Grant for funding for the Dutch Bottom Pedestrian Bridge.”

City Clerk Ohler stated this is just in case the Multi Modal does not get approved and a secondary grant to help fund that project.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this is the walking bridge that goes from Dutch Bottom to Mountz Creek Park.

City Clerk Ohler answered yes.

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

**Resolution No. 2-7-2024:** “To grant permission to apply for a COVID-19 ARPA PA Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program Grant, for repairs and upgrades to City Hall.”

Mayor Lincoln impressed his hopefulness on this grant and stated council needs to seek assistance from the State Representatives to get this grant.

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

**Reminders:**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM – 8 PM, Sr. Citizen Center, Spaghetti Dinner Cancer Benefit, Patty Barnhart, \$10  
Mayor Lincoln stated Patty Barnhart has donated many hours of her time in the Police Auxiliary and hopes the public will come out and support her.

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM – 9 PM, Community Center, Heart to Hope Telethon

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 4 PM, New Haven Hose, Craft/Vendor Show

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM – 2 PM, Simply Soup Walk, \$10 tickets available throughout town  
Mayor Lincoln noted the tickets sell out and you cannot get tickets the day of the event.

There are openings on the following:

Carnegie Library Board (1), Zoning Hearing Board (1), and Board of Health (1)

Please email events to [connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com)

Central Fellowship Church, 316 N Arch Street, Free Community Lunch  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month beginning January through October at 11 AM until 12:30 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month (due to Thanksgiving) in November at 11 AM until 12:30 PM

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

**KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 2-8-2024:** “To renew \$250,000 into a Certificate of Deposit at Mid Penn Bank for one year at a rate of 4.75%.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-9-2024:** “To transfer the interest earned amount from the Mid Penn Certificate of \$9,965.61 to the Capital Improvement Account.”

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

Mayor Lincoln stated what the County is doing since the City took over the UCC Permitting and they are not getting that money any more is to have the City pay them \$5 per application for the UCC Permitting from the County.

Tom Currey, Code Officer, explained the \$5 per application fee. He was not at the podium and could not be heard clearly.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned that someone completes an upgrade to their home, we let the County know and then they assess their taxes higher?

Mayor Lincoln stated our application was \$50 and now it will have to be \$55.

Tom Currey spoke again and could not hear what he said.

City Council discussed the issue and Solicitor Witt suggested discussing the issue at Executive Session.

Mayor Lincoln questioned since the County does not have a form to fill out, how do they submit the money to them (County). He questioned Solicitor Witt if the City should pay the \$5 to the County.

Solicitor Witt stated until further action is taken, he would recommend paying the \$5 per application fee.

#### **THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS TABLED**

**Resolution No. -2024:** “To pay monthly to the Fayette County Assessment Office the \$5.00 per UCC Permit Fee on all permit applications submitted to the City for parcel improvements.”

#### **COUNCILMAN ADDIS:**

Health Officer’s Report  
New Haven Hose Report  
Fayette EMS Report

Mayor Lincoln requested an update on the guy who abandoned his home on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

Solicitor Witt warned Mayor Lincoln not to discuss names in public.

City Clerk Ohler stated they have not received the information from the Housing Authority.

**COUNCILMAN TOPPER:** Read by Mayor Lincoln

**Resolution No. 2-10-2024:** “To advertise to bid the COMMUNITY CENTER MASONRY REPAIRS PROJECT. Bid packets will be available on February 21, 2024 at Widmer Engineering Inc., 225 West Crawford Avenue, Connellsville PA 15425. Bids will be opened at the March 19, 2024 City Council meeting at 5:00 PM.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-11-2024:** “To increase, effective immediately, the rental fees on pavilions at all City owned parks from \$100 to \$125 on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays and from \$45 to \$60 on Monday through Thursday – not including Holidays.”

Mayor Lincoln stated this money goes back into City parks and their upkeep.

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

**Resolution No. 2-12-2024:** “To grant the Connellsville Recreation Board permission to stage a hole at the Connellsville Senior Center for the 2024 Barstool Open on June 15, 2024.”

City Clerk Ohler noted they are planning to hold the event outside.

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

**Resolution No. 2-13-2024:** “To permit General Braddock’s Fish Club, Connellsville Recreation Board and Connellsville Festival Association to use Yough River Park from May 30, 2024 through June 3, 2024, allowing for set up and clean up, for the Yough River Rally Event held May 31, 2024 through June 2, 2024; further approving items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-14-2024:** “To grant General Braddock's Fish Club, Connellsville Recreation Board, and Connellsville Festival Association permission to have beer and wine sales at the Yough River Rally On May 31, 2024 through June 2, 2024, with proper permits from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-15-2024:** “To approve a designated area of Yough River Park as a “Smoking Area” during the Yough River Rally, May 31, 2024 through June 2, 2024.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-16-2024:** “To grant permission to the Jamie McPoyle Foundation in conjunction with the Connellsville Rec Board to use Austin Park on Saturday May 25, 2024 for an adult kickball tournament.”

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

**Resolution No. 2-17-2024:** “To grant permission to the Jamie McPoyle Foundation in conjunction with the Connellsville Rec Board to hold the Second Annual Jamie McPoyle Bike/Run/Walk on October 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM through the streets of the city’s southside at and Austin Park, pending approval from the Police Chief and Fire Chief.”

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

**COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 2-18-2024:** “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, Keedy and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.