

**Connellsville City Council
MINUTES
November 20, 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:

REMARKS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chuck Hubble, Pennies for Polio

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

City Treasurer Weaver announced the Tax Office is ready to mail out Business License bills due the first of January. She added there are 324 businesses in the City.

Treasurer Weaver, City Clerk Ohler and Mayor Lincoln discussed the City's Tax Assessments and what was lost in "Dutch Bottom – North End Properties" value should be replaced by new property developments.

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

Controller Witt reviewed his report and added Tangled Up In Brew event added a substantial amount to the Recreation Fund.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Robert Topper, Sr., Resignation as Fire Chief for New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department

Mayor Lincoln thanked Robert Topper, Sr. for all that he has done for the City throughout his entire career. He further thanked him personally for taking him under his wing when he became Mayor. Mayor Lincoln stated he is proud to be able to raise their line item so they could get a rescue boat, warming center and more. He further stated he is proud to be part of the part five years and seeing what New Haven Hose has obtained since then. Mayor Lincoln noted it will be difficult to replace Mr. Topper because he goes above and beyond the call of duty and is present each time he is needed. He wished him a happy retirement and thanked him again.

Councilman Karpiak thanked Robert Topper, Sr. for his influences over the City. He added it goes further than being a firefighter, having a good family and being a good person. He stated Mr. Topper got things done in this town. Karpiak stated Mr. Topper could sway people to his side just by his down to earth intelligence and common sense. He stated when the disaster struck the north end, Topper was there and stayed there. Karpiak added Council now has to concern themselves with who will replace him. He noted with Topper's leadership skills, he feels confident someone is ready to fill his shoes and do it admirably.

Councilman Topper, Jr. stated he feels comfortable with who New Haven Hose feels will be the next Chief and Assistant Chief. He added they will be officers for a very long time. Topper also added fires will still be put out and trucks will still be headed out the door.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 11-1-2018: "To approve the minutes from the October 16, 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. 11-2-2018: "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

Mayor Lincoln stated Chief Hammerle was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Lincoln stated "click it or ticket" is going on. He reminded everyone to have designated drivers when you are out over the holidays. He reminded residents of curfew being Sunday through Thursday is 10PM and Friday and Saturday are 11PM. Mayor Lincoln added there are numerous complaints in the Second Ward area. He warned residents there will be a greater police presence in that area and juveniles will be cited after curfew. Mayor Lincoln stated they are working on getting a light in that area and cameras for the park.

REMINDERS:

Recycling November 27th & 28th, December 11th, 12th, 26th & 27th

November 22nd, Thanksgiving Dinner, Senior Center, 11 AM - 1 PM, call 724-628-0700 by 3 PM tomorrow (21st) for delivery or for a ride to the center. Delivery from 9:30 AM - 1 PM. Donations are welcome. Checks payable to City Church with Thanksgiving Meal on the memo line of the check.

City Hall Offices will be closed November 22nd and 23rd for Thanksgiving

November 24th, Small Business Saturday, Chamber of Commerce will be raffling off \$100 in cash to one lucky winner! Visit "Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce" Facebook for information

Mayor Lincoln asked residents to support the businesses in town. He reminded everyone how much they support the City.

Christian Church, Free lunch on the 2nd & 4th Monday of every month

November 30th - December 1st, Gingerbread contest display at Cobblestone Hotel, Prizes will be awarded to the winner with the most tickets. Tickets are 3/\$1 or 20/\$5.

December 1st and 2nd, It's a Connellsville Christmas.

Mayor Lincoln added the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade is on the 1st at 11 AM and they are still seeking participants. He added around 5PM – 5:30PM they will light up the Christmas tree and it will be light up night. Mayor Lincoln thanked all of the organization that help make this happen. He thanked the Martucci family for providing the City's Christmas Tree this year. He added they have been wanting to help the City and he is pleased to have them provide the tree this year. Mayor Lincoln added they are also another local business in the City.

December 8th, St. Rita's Christmas Cookie Sale, 9 AM, Bucci Hall

Mayor Lincoln stated Saturday, December 8th is another event just put together. He stated it begins at 2PM until close at Ruvo's Italian Restaurant. Mayor Lincoln stated this is for a little boy in the community who needs a new wheelchair. He added it is a fundraiser and Santa will be there.

Councilman Karpiak questioned what kind of wheelchair.

Mayor Lincoln answered he doesn't know exactly which kind, but it cost \$5,000.

Mayor Lincoln stated they will have pictures with Santa from 2PM – 6PM. He added there will be hot chocolate, apple cider, Christmas treats, raffles and a bon fire. Mayor Lincoln stated Jet, the young boy in need of the wheelchair, requests the community bring unwrapped gifts for Children's Hospital.

December 15th and 16th at 7PM is the Living Christmas Tree at Faith Bible Church.

Mayor Lincoln stated it is really a fun family time with lots of lights and Solicitor Witt will be in it.

Mayor Lincoln announced January 1st at 10AM is the annual Polar Bear Plunge. He added cans of food are collected for Community Ministries.

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 11-3-2018: "To introduce Bill No. 4 of 2018, AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES PAYABLE BY THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE FOR THE VARIOUS POSITIONS ENUMERATED HEREIN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH."

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. 11-4-2018: "To introduce Bill No. 5 of 2018, An Ordinance of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the real estate tax rate and residence tax rate for all city purposes for the fiscal year 2019, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith."

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. 11-5-2018: "To introduce Bill No. 6 of 2018, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SHOWING THE ESTIMATED RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES, AND LIABILITIES OF EVERY KIND FOR ALL THE FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 WITH THE BALANCE OF UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS AS THE BASIS FOR FIXING THE LEVY AND TAX RATE FOR SAID FISCAL, YEAR APPROPRIATING THE VARIOUS AMOUNTS SHOWN AS PROPOSED EXPENDITURES HEREIN FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR FROM THE REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES SET FORTH HEREIN, AND THE REPEALING OF ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH."

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.

Councilman Keedy stated the department heads did an amazing job sticking to their budgets. He thanked them and stated Council appreciates their all working together.

KARPIAK:

Public Works Report

Councilman Karpiak stated the Public Works Department has salt and anti-skid ready for snow.

Councilman Karpiak stated to look on the City's website for the leaf pickup schedule.

Councilman Karpiak wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

TZAN:

Resolution No. 11-6-2018: "To enter into a lease Agreement with Connellsville Community Ministries to operate, manage, and administer the property for the benefit of the City and surrounding communities."

Mayor Lincoln stated he feels this will be a positive change for the community. He added the City wants a positive working relationship with the current businesses in the building. He further added the City will help them so the building will be ready when Community Ministries is ready to move in. Mayor Lincoln stated if anyone has questions, please contact the City Clerk at 724-628-2020 ext. 200. He added Vernon Ohler is the liaison and if anyone has questions, the City Clerk will answer them to ensure nothing is being said that is not true. Mayor Lincoln thanked the ministries for doing this. He also stated the Community Development Block Grant money can be used to help rehab the building now.

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.

Councilwoman Tzan thanked Mayor Lincoln, Vernon Ohler and Michael Edwards for helping with the 12th Street deck hockey.

Mayor Lincoln stated the City got a \$74,000 court for \$34,000. He added it is a legitimate deck hockey court. Mayor Lincoln thanked Michael Edwards for making all the calls and finding one that the City could work out a deal with.

City Clerk Ohler announced on Black Friday, the City will have a little work session at the court around 9:30AM – 10AM.

TOPPER:

Health/Code Officer Report

New Haven Hose Report

Councilman Topper stated with the snow coming residents need to make plans to have their walk ways and driveways cleared.

Councilman Topper reminded residents that the State passed very strict anti-tethering laws. He asked everyone to review the law and if you see an animal out too long call 911.

Councilman Topper reminded residents he feels comfortable with the direction of New Haven Hose and the upcoming new Fire Chief. He assured residents that the trucks will still get out and fires will still be put out.

Councilman Topper added that the men from New Haven Hose are volunteers and replacing those who got paid a lot of money for a lot of years to do the job.

Councilman Topper thanked Chief Topper for all he has done over the years. He reminded residents that the next Fire Chief will be doing it for the same salary which is "0". He further added the City appreciates them for all they do and going above and beyond.

Mayor Lincoln had a final reminder of a Gingerbread House contest at the Cobblestone Hotel from November 30 – December 1st. The winner is chosen by whoever has the most tickets. Tickets are on sale for 3 for \$1 or 20 for \$5. You can view the Gingerbread Houses the 28th from 5PM – 7PM.

Resolution No. 11-7-2018: "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.