

CONNELLSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
5 PM – October 17, 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: Led by Rev. Matt Goldsberry

OATH OF OFFICE: Noah Hough, Patrolman

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CITY TREASURER REPORT: Marilyn Weaver

CITY CONTROLLER REPORT: Bill Addis

NEW HAVEN HOSE REPORT: Bill Addis

CORRESPONDENCE:

Toni M. Colland, Payne AME Church, Request to use Henderson Lane for Election Dinner

Mayor Lincoln stated the meals are \$15 and suggested calling to reserve a dinner since they sell out.

Resolution No. 10-1-2023: “To grant permission to Payne A.M.E. Church at 812 West Crawford Avenue, to reserve the parking on the block of West Crawford Avenue allowing a line to form to turn right onto Henderson Lane in front of the church from 11 AM until 6 PM on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 for their Election Day Dinners.”

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.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 10-2-2023: “To accept the minutes from the September 19, 2023 City Council Meeting.”

Councilwoman Tiberio stated before she votes, she would like to make a statement (*attached as part of the minutes*):

“The September minutes are very detailed and captured the meeting nicely.

And, for that reason, and before I vote on these minutes, I need to circle back to the “minutes” op ed of that evening. The lecture was clearly one person’s opinion of the minutes debate. My #1 objection to that opinion was the fact that I requested corrections to the August meeting that included discussion items on both sides of the aisle that were omitted, questions/answers I directed to a guest speaker, items from my department report and correcting the entrance of a guest speaker. To be clear, my edits were the result of reading the minutes and not my displeasure of the Daily Courier’s reporting. I don’t know where that came from!! I have privately corrected that with newspaper personnel and now I am publicly clarifying that statement.

#2 A brief history of the minute process. The minutes are typed up shortly after meeting and sent out to for council’s review. This review is for comments, corrections, and edits. I have sent corrections in the past and there was never pushback, only appreciation. The op ed included reasons why items may not be included as to background chatter and one just doing the best job one can under circumstances. As someone who was actually at the meeting, I felt the need to replay the meeting and my requests for inclusion/correction were crystal clear. As to my edits being a slap in the face to our secretary, that is ridiculous and deflecting. Diminishing efforts for a fair and balanced council with condescending remarks is insulting. Edits by members of council adds to transparency and owning of our actions. There was no disrespect in the process. I have always been a stickler for the accuracy of minutes as they become a permanent record in the city’s history. This issue did not need to become public, but the choice was made to do so. Minutes should not be what we want people to read but the essence of the actual meeting.

And, although I disagree and challenge the op ed I have to vote “yes” on the minutes as they truly captured the essence of the September meeting.”

Mayor Lincoln added they are not transcripts and can be watched on YouTube to get each word.

Councilwoman Tiberio stated she did not call them a transcript.

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. 10-3-2023: “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:

Resolution No. 10-4-2023: “The City Council of the City of Connellsville, hereby re-designates the City Clerk of the City of Connellsville, to serve as Section 504 Compliance Officer throughout the implementation of the Community Development Block Grant Program. The responsibilities of the 504 Officer include:

1. Coordinating and monitoring the city’s compliance with Section 504, as well as state civil rights requirements regarding discrimination and harassment based on disability;
2. Overseeing prevention efforts to avoid Section 504 violations from occurring;
3. Implementing the city’s discrimination complaint procedures with respect to allegations of Section 504 violations; discrimination based on disability and disability harassment; and
4. Investigating complaints alleging violations of Section 504 discrimination based on disability and disability harassment.

Citizens with Section 504 grievances must submit them to the Section 504 Compliance Officer within two weeks of the date the person filing the grievance becomes aware of the alleged discriminatory action. The office will respond in writing to written citizen grievances. Citizen grievances should be mailed to: City of Connellsville, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425. All written citizen grievances will be responded to within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the comments. Should any individual, family, or entity have a grievance concerning any action prohibited under Section 504, a meeting with the compliance officer to discuss the grievance will be scheduled. The meeting date and time will be established within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the request. Upon meeting and discussing the grievance, a reply will be made, in writing, within thirty (30) calendar days. If the citizen is dissatisfied with the local response, they may write to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Keystone Building, 400 North Street, 4th floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120. DCED will respond only to written comments within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the comments.”

Councilman Karpiak stated he only has three more meeting to go and has been voting on this for 14 years. He added he read it and knows what it is. He continued that what they are involved with today and dealing with the influx of immigration, legal entry and possibly being told who we are going to take into this country and into this town. Councilman Karpiak stated “A lot of this has to do with fair housing and I have been part of fair housing for thirty years. In light of what is going on today and knowing I will be doing this by myself, I believe that this is a warning and going down a direction now of which I do not want to be a part of. I know that there is big money involved in this and that is why we do it. Everything in here is consequential. There is nothing like this going on in this town that I am aware of. Being the fact that we have to have translators and things like that, I am voting no.”

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

Police Department Report by Police Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln asked Chief Hammerle for an update on with the body cameras.

Police Chief Hammerle answered he is scheduling to have the new servers put it by his IT guy. He stated they brought them in and now he must coordinate with another agency to get them on-line. "Our alert system, our report system, we have to get together with them to put our old police reports to the service, which has to be done first. Then we can work with Motorola and Bearcom to get the car cameras put in. We have to get ours done first, within a month have the car cams in and then the body cams up and running." Chief added it is a chain of events and they have to wait for other people to get in line and get together to work through the process. He added they already stated on the servers.

Mayor Lincoln stated Captain Huss is officially retired from the City and he thanked him for his 20 years of service to the Connellsville Community and wished him well on his retirement.

Resolution No. 10-5-2023: "LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS of the City of Connellsville that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status(families with children), or handicap (disability) is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Act) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness, or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. It is the policy of the City of Connellsville to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness, or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. Therefore, the City of Connellsville does hereby pass the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that within available resources the City of Connellsville will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the local Fair Housing Officer, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, whichever is chosen by the person filing the complaint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Connellsville shall make publicly known this Resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and any local laws or ordinances.

FURTHER ACTION will at a minimum include, but not to be limited to:

(1) Publicizing the name and contact information of the local Fair Housing Officer, which will include the process to file a complaint if a person feels they have been discriminated against in housing in any manner and other applicable fair housing information through local media and community contracts;
and

- (2) Conduct at least one fair housing activity annually to better inform the public of their rights under the Fair Housing Law and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; and
- (3) Use the fair housing logo on all materials dealing with housing programs such as but not limited to:
- a. Public advertisements for vacancy or discussing the program
 - b. Applications for assistance
 - c. Contracts
 - d. Municipal letters dealing with the federal programs

If you are a person with a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to be able to access any notification, please contact the business offices of City of Connellsville, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, 724-628-2020, www.connellsville.us, connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com .

If you have Limited English Proficiency and require a document translation of any notification, please contact the business offices of City of Connellsville, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425, 724-628-2020 www.connellsville.us, connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com .

Approved at the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Connellsville held October 17, 2023.”

Solicitor Witt this is a mandatory CDBG requirements. He stated the City must announce that certain forms of discrimination are illegal with the City and there are means for people to report so the City can address those issues.

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.: 10-6-2023: “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) 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.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest that the City of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, receive funds from the Commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville has the legal authority and responsibility under Act 179 to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville have undertaken a considerable citizen participation process including written invitations to municipalities, informational meetings, hearings, and legal notices all of which culminated in the prioritization of projects and development of a Community Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville are familiar with the requirements of the program as provided for in the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) and the Community Development Block Grant regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville wishes to apply for said funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Connellsville that the Mayor is authorized to have prepared the necessary forms and documents to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant funds for the purposes aforesaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if CDBG funds are determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be expended on ineligible program costs or do not meet a national objective, the City of Connellsville agrees to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community Development Plan was developed in coordination with low and moderate individuals, interested organizations, non-profits and other interested parties through the citizen participation process and municipal information gathering is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Connellsville is empowered to place his/her signature, on behalf of the governing body, on necessary application forms and affix thereto the official seal of the City of Connellsville.

Adopted by the City of Connellsville at the regular meeting on October 17, 2023.”

Solicitor Witt stated this is the approval to submit the CDBG application.

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. 10-7-2023: “The City of Connellsville (Grantee) has completed the Four Factor Analysis and has determined that there are no items identified from the analysis above for this grantee, program or activity that will trigger the need for a Language Access Plan.”

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. 10-8-2023: “To adopt Bill No. 7 of 2023; An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, approving the vacation of a portion of an unnamed alley located in the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette.

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, approving the vacation of a portion of an unnamed alley located in the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette.

WHEREAS, Marianne Oppman, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Mary U. Oppman, Deceased, James E. Bigam, and Christi R. Bigam, have petitioned and requested that a portion of an unnamed alley abutting their properties identified as Tax Parcel Nos. 05-13-0031 and 05-13-0032;

WHEREAS, said portion of said unnamed alley is used as private yard areas and are not used by the public for purposes of public travel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Connellsville does not maintain said unnamed alley;

WHEREAS, the Third-Class City Code, 11 Pa.C.S.A. § 12919 requires any street or alley vacation ordinance to be advertised prior to consideration and final passage; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the City Council on the 10th day of October, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the petitioners have agreed to meet certain conditions, including, without limitation and with respect to certain petitioners, the release, waiving, and indemnifying the City of any damages as an adjacent property owner.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That, conditioned upon the vacation of the corresponding portion of such alley located in the Borough of South Connellsville, the following described portion of an unnamed alley is hereby vacated, except as may be expressly provided in this Ordinance:

Approximately one hundred twenty (120) feet of said unnamed alley, being that existing, unopened, and unvacated portion of an unnamed alley extending northwardly from the northern right of way line of East Austin Avenue for approximately one hundred twenty (120) feet, with a width of twenty (20) feet, as shown on Exhibit A attached hereto.

SECTION 2: Reservation of Easement. An easement is hereby reserved and retained, as a condition of approval of the petition, for all of that portion of the above vacated property as a perpetual easement or rights-of way for any existing pipes, pipelines, or other infrastructure, for the construction, maintenance, repair, relocation, and operation of existing pipes, pipelines, or other infrastructure, without any liability for damages on the part of the City, and no permanent buildings or structures shall be located within or upon said easement without the prior written consent of the City. Petitioner shall execute all necessary documents identifying and conveying such easement to the City.

SECTION 3: Conditions of Vacation. The vacation is contingent on the Petitioner providing any releases, easement reservation instruments, or any other confirmatory documents requested by the City. The petitioner, and its successors and assigns, has agreed and acknowledged that no proceedings for the award of damages may be had and no damages as a result of the vacation of the aforementioned road within the City of Connellsville shall under any conditions be awarded to it.

SECTION 4: Constitutionality or Invalidity. If any section, subsection, clause, phrase, or sentence, of this Ordinance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality of the remaining portions of this ordinance, as it is being hereby expressly declared that this ordinance and each section, subsections, clause, phrase, or sentence, hereof would have been prepared, proposed, adopted, and approved and ratified irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, clause, phrase, or sentence, be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days from and after passage, and publication as provided by law, and upon full completion of the conditions provided herein.

SECTION 6: Recordation. The City Clerk is directed to file this ordinance with the Clerk of Courts, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and record this ordinance with the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

SECTION 7: Implementation. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this ordinance.

Enacted and ordained this 17TH day of October, 2023.”

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. 10-9-2023: “To enter into an Agreement between the City of Connellsville and the Connellsville Municipal Authority for the purpose of garbage/refuse collection within the City of Connellsville for both residential and commercial accounts, pending solicitor review and approval.”

Mayor Lincoln reminded residents that there will be one more bill from County Hauling for one month. He noted it will be around \$19.00 for the month of October. He stated effective November 1st, the Connellsville Municipal Authority will be taking over the billing and it will be monthly. Mayor Lincoln also reminded residents if they have automatic payments with County Hauling, they must make sure it ends the last day of October. He added the Municipal Authority will be billing residents after November 1st and residents can setup automatic payments through them.

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. 10-10-2023: “To approve the City of Connellsville's commitment towards the necessary match funds, in the amount of \$11,260.00, for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant for the lower West Side Planning Grant.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this was coming out of the General Fund.

City Clerk, Vernon Ohler, stated he is trying to get other grant monies to match with this. He continued they needed a commitment from the City to say they would do the \$60,000 match. He noted they have a \$50,000 statewide LSA and they are trying to do some other creative stuff.

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. 10-11-2023: “To grant permission to Roger Suter & Sons, Inc. to donate two wreaths and permit the Public Works employee(s) to assist with hanging the wreaths on the Officer McCray Robb Bridge as requested on the Utilization Form.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Suters and Demuth Florist for the wreaths and added he is hopeful that next year they will be putting wreaths on a new bridge.

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 10-12-2023: "To hold the annual "Stuff a First Responder Vehicle" at the East Side Fire Station on Saturday December 2, 2023."

Councilman Keedy stated it will be from 12 noon until 2 PM.

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. 10-13-2023: "To grant permission to the City Clerk apply for a PennDOT Multimodal Grant on behalf of the city for an Urban Passage Loop."

Mayor Lincoln stated this will help with the second round of funding for the Iron Horse Bridge Project.

City Clerk Ohler stated he got a bit of a setback with the grant today. He stated after talking with PennDOT, the pedestrian bridge that the city gets access to, on Route 51 / 70 interchange, is probably not going to be available. City Clerk Ohler stated he is meeting Friday with the City's representative from PennDOT who handles this situation and he will find out what she has to say. He continued that it may get put on hold for now.

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.

REMINDERS:

October 20th at 3 PM is the deadline for the Halloween Home Decorating Contest. Call or email Shelley at connellsvillesecretary@gmail.com or 724-628-2020 ext. 201. Mayor Lincoln thanked Courtney from Courtney's Candies for sponsoring the contest. He added it will be a fun weekend to drive around and check out all the homes.

October 21st, 2 PM – 5 PM, Somerset Trust, Train Station, BOOFEST, games, prizes, snacks, treat bags

Mayor Lincoln stated Crawford's School of Terror is having a first ever "kids' day" this Saturday during the day. He added the kids will dress up in their costumes and receive treat bags.

October 22nd from 7 AM – 11:30 AM, St. Rita's Bucci Hall, pancakes, buckwheat cakes and sausage breakfast, Adults \$7, and children under 12 \$2

October 28th, Boo-ling Party, 8 PM – midnight, \$25 Adult \$10 (under 12), RSVP only, 724-628-9972, food, taco bar, hotdogs, sauerkraut, Kielbasa, chips, dip, costume contest, music, chance auction/50/50, City Bowling

October 29th, Trick or Treat, 6 PM – 8 PM

Crawford School of Terror will run through November 4th. Visit www.crawford.school for information

October 31st, 115th Annual New Haven Hose's Halloween Parade, 7 PM, call 724-880-6920 to sign up and any questions

November 1st – 17th, CFS Bank, Food drive, Non-perishable food items will be donated to the Ministries

November 4th, Warriors Rock Concert, 7 PM, Sr. High School

November 10th, Connellsville Canteen, Free Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast, Free breakfast for each veteran and one guest, 8 AM – 10 AM, RSVP 724- 603-2093

Mayor Lincoln stated this weekend is the last time you can get the Amish Donuts at the H&R Parking Lot

November 18th, Christmas in the Park, Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500, The Chamber is seeking donations for treat bags. Please call the Chamber for arrangements. Mayor Lincoln stated they are bringing the horse back and will allow horse rides through the park.

December 2nd, Christmas Parade, 5 PM, Green Street to 8th Street, Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500

December 2nd, Stuff a First Responder Vehicle, East Side Fire Hall, 12 noon – 2 PM

December 7th, Toy Drive by the Chamber, Aaron's Building, 5 PM – 8 PM. Mayor Lincoln stated the Chamber is very busy and very supportive of the holidays.

December 16th, Laying of the Wreaths by CAHS Patriots, Bus leaves 9 AM at Sr. High School

Children in the Connellsville Area School District in need of a coat can call Misty for an appointment at the Connellsville Area Community Ministries: 724-963-0211. Mayor Lincoln added the ministries are accepting new or lightly used coat for this program.

Remember First Fridays and Shop Local to support your community. Mayor Lincoln added this is every month and participating businesses will have specials.

COUNCILMAN KEEDY:

Resolution No. 10-14-2023: “To pay \$7,574.00 to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System for the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Payment; monies to be taken from line item #483.300.”

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. 10-15-2023: “To pay \$464,026.00 into the Police Pension Plan in order to satisfy the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO), monies to be taken from line item 410.160.”

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. 10-16-2023: “To pay \$99,156.00 into the Fire Pension Plan in order to satisfy the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO), monies to be taken from line item 411.160.”

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

Councilman Karpiak asked Tom Currey, Health, Code, Zoning Officer if he has any public reminders.

Tom Currey asked residents to pay attention to leaf collection dates.

Councilman Karpiak reminded residents to put their garbage in a can with a lid on it.

Fayette EMS Report

Councilman Karpiak announced Fayette EMS needs financial support of the residents. He added when residents receive a card from them to please fill out the card and mail what financial support you can give them. Councilman Karpiak stated “We are in need of them. It would be a really tuff road to hoe without them, so please support them.”

Resolution No. 10-17-2023: “To enter into a Two-Year Agreement with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels for animal control services at a monthly base rate of \$355.00 and \$100 per call after working hours, Saturday, Sunday and holidays; with money to be taken from line item 420.450; Agreement begins January 1, 2024 and ends December 31, 2025.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned the \$100 charge on the weekends.

City Clerk Ohler answered that charge has been in the previous contracts. He added the charge is far and few between.

Chief Hammerle stated if they have a dangerous animal that needs to be picked up by them and it is after hours, that is the type of call it would be.

Councilman Karpiak added he recalls the company from when they had a house full of birds, reptiles, and cats. He noted there was an added charge and that was years ago.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned if the \$355.00 charge is unlimited weekday pickup.

City Clerk Ohler answered yes.

Mayor Lincoln noted they are to do patrols in the City.

Chief Hammerle stated he has been made aware of Hoffmans receiving calls from residents directly rather than going through the Police Department.

Mayor Lincoln questioned who is liable for the payment if a resident calls them directly on a Saturday?

Chief Hammerle replied he does not know.

City Clerk Ohler was instructed to find out that answer.

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 stated that Independence Health had their ribbon cutting. He continued "Patty over there expressed very nicely how she was treated by the City and especially by Shelley. She did nothing but rave about her and how much she helped her and was her right-hand girl. When she told me that, I took pride in that. Being the City has someone like Shelley answering the phone. You do not get someone who cannot wait until you get off the phone, but actually works at it and tries to help you. Kudos to Shelley for what she has done. She is somebody for the City to be proud of that she is on the other end of the phone."

Mayor Lincoln stated he wished Shelley could have attended the ribbon cutting and believes they would have recognized her at the event.

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Councilman Topper thanked everyone who helped with Tangled Up In Brew and noted it was a big success. He thanked Mayor Lincoln who did a lot of the leg work. Councilman Topper stated this is a big fundraiser and gives them a nice balance to go through the winter with. He thanked the sponsors and everyone who attended. He also thanked the Recreation Board members who were there during the day and at night and donated baskets. Councilman Topper gave a shout out to everyone.

Resolution No. 10-18-2023: "To allow the Connellsville Area Senior High School National Honor Society permission to hold the inaugural "Thanksgiving Classic Deck Hockey Tournament" at 12th Street Park on Saturday, November 18, 2023, pending insurance and waiver confirmation."

Councilman Topper stated this is only open to the high school students but residents can show their support. He added NHS would like to make this a yearly event along with possibly a few other events. He noted they are excited to continue to work with the school.

Mayor Lincoln added those kids go above and beyond to support Community Ministries. He stated everything is a fundraiser or food drive for Connellsville Community Ministries. Mayor Lincoln noted the kids have good teachers and parents guiding them and the kids know the importance of Community Ministries to this community. He added "I thank them so much and whatever we can do to help." He asked if Jimmy to inspect the boards and see if they are secure.

Councilman Topper answered yes.

Mayor Lincoln stated when they get the fencing next year, he wants to be sure it will be done correctly and the walls secure.

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 discussed the Tangled Up In Brew and how the Public Works Department does a lot of the work and gets the park set up. He thanked Jimmy, Clint, and Bill for moving picnic tables, putting up fencing and put all the lights up and hung the banners. He continued that they came out on Sunday morning to tear everything down and delivered it to the YRTC for their event and helped to set up everything. Mayor Lincoln stated he thanks those guys and they go above and beyond when we have events in town and the City would not be able to have the events without their support.

Councilman Topper added the Police Auxiliary too.

Mayor Lincoln agreed.

COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:

Public Works Report
Leaf schedule

Councilwoman Tiberio wanted to make sure the schedule is available for the public.

Mayor Lincoln noted it is on the City's website.

Mayor Lincoln stated people approached him regarding the large pothole at the exit of the new Excelsa Health Center. He announced it will be fixed. He continued it will be cut out and hot patched.

Councilman Karpiak questioned how many people Excelsa has served so far.

Mayor Lincoln answered 364 patients in the first week. Mayor Lincoln reminded residents the speed limit through there is 25 MPH. He stated Martin's million-dollar project is almost complete, they opened up their sushi business yesterday and next, they will be selling beer and wine.

Resolution No. 10-19-2023: "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.