

Connellsville City Council MINUTES

5 PM – MARCH 18, 2025

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 Rita Smith and Solicitor Witt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Led by Pastor John W. Friend

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Lincoln stated the timer will be set to three minutes and Solicitor Witt will let us know when the three minutes is up.

Nina Pleva, Discussed backyard chickens

Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Nina Pleva, I live in the city of Connellsville, I am coming to you to propose the idea of urban homesteading in Connellsville.

Homesteading with backyard chickens is rapidly increasing in popularity. There was a 50% increase in backyard chicken ownership from 2018 to 2020 according to The American Pet Products Association. This is a good selling point for people looking to move to Connellsville as well as a retaining point for people already established. One family we spoke with while preparing for today told us they moved out of Connellsville due to not being able to keep chickens. That is just one family that we know of, imagine how many have moved over the years or who would not consider moving to Connellsville for this reason.

As long as we are responsible and respectful chicken owners there are many benefits to having backyard chickens.

Chickens eat rodents, ticks, and other bugs, keeping pests down. Many people incorrectly think chickens attract rodents, but instead that can be from open food containers. I would propose keeping chicken food contained and using a no waste chicken feeder. Chickens also greatly reduce food waste by eating kitchen scraps.

We can control what is going into our foods by controlling what we feed our chickens. Holistic minded people can choose not to feed their chickens soy because of it being a known hormone disruptor. RFK is making more people aware of harmful chemicals going into our foods. Store-bought eggs are washed in chemicals such as QAC-quaternary ammonium compounds, sodium hypochlorite, or bleach, sodium carbonate, propylene glycol and surfactants. Due to the porous nature of an egg, these chemicals can be introduced into the egg and thus into our food product. Many people have been told they have an allergy to eggs, but are in fact reacting to the chemicals used to process eggs for the supermarket. They discover this when they are able to eat farm fresh eggs with no issue. Also, the average egg from the grocer is 45-60 days old, losing nutrient density as time passes.

Farm fresh eggs have a protective coating on them that is called a bloom. When we have our own chickens we can leave this antimicrobial protective coating intact. It protects the egg from bacteria and germs, including Salmonella. Salmonella can come from eating undercooked foods that are contaminated, and from lettuce and other produce found in grocery stores. Backyard chicken owners can decrease the risk of bacteria and germs by cleanliness and handwashing. Backyard chickens have been found to have a lower rate of salmonella than commercial farms according to a study done by North Carolina State University. Joel Salatin cited a study done in the UK where feeding chickens 2 blades of grass a day ensures they do not get avian influenza. Commercially raised chickens live their lives without seeing any grass or eating the good foods that produce more nutrient dense eggs, increasing their risk of diseases compared to backyard chickens.

Dogs are notably noisier than chickens. Dogs bark at around 90 decibels, where a hen will cluck at around 53 decibels. Also, when dogs go on walks they deposit their liquid waste all over the neighborhood, whereas backyard chickens will keep their waste contained in the owner's yard. The chicken waste can then be composted for nutrient rich garden food.

Many people consider chickens as pets, and chickens respond to their names. Some people have chickens as emotional support animals, allowing us the pursuit of happiness as promised us in the Declaration of Independence.

Our founding fathers wrote the constitution to protect the people from the overreach of the government, not the other way around. It is a basic human right to grow and raise our own food. This is important for our freedom as well as our health. Our forefathers strongly believed in living off of the land and responsibly caring for the land and our families. I am trying to be respectful and responsible by requesting a chicken ordinance for the city of Connellsville. My friend and I combed through the ordinances of Connellsville and could not find one on keeping chickens, but we did find pigs and hogs mentioned. The only ordinance we found mentioning chickens was in dealing with cruelty to animals.

There are many large cities across America allowing backyard chickens, such as Los Angeles, Detroit, Seattle, and our very own Pittsburgh. In fact, in the city of Pittsburgh, on my lot of just under 5000 square feet, I would be allowed to keep 8 chickens or ducks, bees, and/or 2 miniature goats. Most of our surrounding towns allow chickens as well, such as Uniontown, Everson, Scottdale, Mt. Pleasant, East Huntingdon, Latrobe, and South Connellsville, which is two blocks away from my residence. Their ordinances all state that chickens cannot be at large, no roosters, and specify numbers of chickens allowed.

South Connellsville, which allows ten chickens per lot less than 5 acres, no roosters, and requires a roofed coop, has recently been in the news for people who are not adhering to the ordinance. I do not agree with that behavior and would like to make that clear. According to the article that I read in our local paper, the people are free ranging a larger number of chickens and roosters and they are bothering the neighborhood. I feel that these people should be cited as appropriate, and this behavior not tolerated. I do not think we should punish everyone for a few people not following the law. As an example, we should not all have our drivers licenses revoked due to some people driving under the influence.

Connellsville would benefit from an ordinance on backyard chickens. I would propose 5 hens per household, perhaps more for larger acreage, to be kept in a coop and run with a roof, not to be free ranged, and no roosters. We should also not be selling eggs to the public, thus not increasing traffic to the residential areas.

I have attached the ordinances from South Connellsville and Pittsburgh for your reference.

Thank you so much for your time on this matter.

Solicitor Witt notified everyone the three minutes is up and asked Ms. Pleva to summarize the topic. He added Council does have her statement in writing.

Mayor Lincoln added he is reading along and likes it.

Nina Pleva continued to discuss the backyard chickens.

Mayor Lincoln questioned Solicitor Witt on how South Connellsville is doing with their Chickens in the Borough.

Solicitor Witt replied they have complaints on non-compliance issues. He added some people who have chickens are not taking responsibility for the chickens by allowing them to run wherever and they cannot be identified as to who they belong to. He noted that unlike the city, South Connellsville does not do their own zoning and the County zoning applies to them which does not allow chickens in certain zones. He continues that if it is within a permitted zone, they still have to follow that ordinance of the County. Solicitor Witt added it is positive in some respects to certain people; however, they have received complaints as well.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the city adopted an ordinance, could they limit it to owner occupied homes only or do they have to include all homes.

Solicitor Witt replied he does not know the answer but will look into it. He continued his initial thought is that they may not be able to limit it exclusively to owner occupied because it could raise constitutional issues of treating certain classes of people differently.

Mayor Lincoln stated the Code Officer is not for having urban chickens within the city limits. He requested Tom Currey, Code Officer, to give his input on this subject.

Tom Currey, Code Officer, stated if this is done correctly, the chickens could work. He noted he is concerned that it will not be done correctly. He added he is concerned that it will be the same people that he deals with on a regular basis and they cannot take care of their dogs and cats. Currey stated that you are allowed chickens in the City of Connellsville under a "Use by Special Exemption" in the Zoning Ordinance out on the highway which is C2 District and the Industrial District. He continued that you have to apply for it and get the city zoning and get the special exemption and go to the Zoning Hearing Board and fill out any use by reasonable restrictions on that. Currey informed council that a change to the Zoning Ordinance would require a mailing to every resident affected and that cost needs to be kept in mind. He continued that they do attract a lot of animals and pests and if they do not have a roof on a pen,

run or down on the ground, there is going to be rats, mice, fox and coyotes, skunks and more. He added if it is being done for financial reasons, it is cheaper to buy eggs at the store. Currey pulled an article from the internet which states it costs about \$68 a month for five chickens. He clarified that is to five years old to lay eggs and then you get rid of the chickens; and they live five years after that. Currey concluded it does not include that expense or the expense of vet bills if a cat would come in and tear at the chicken and it needs to go to the vet. He stated the eggs would be healthier for you to eat if done correctly. He noted the store bought are older and decline in nutrition as they get older. Currey reiterated that it is the execution he is worried about in the city.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if he understands correctly that it is allowed in Industrial and C2 Districts.

Tom Currey answered yes.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if there is something in the language that states how they are allowed to raise the chickens in that area.

Tom Currey answered no.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if they can just go get chickens and be free ranging?

Tom Currey stated "They need to apply with the City and it is called a Use by Special Exemption through the Zoning Hearing Board. They go to the Zoning Hearing Board and present how they are going to raise the chickens. The Zoning Hearing Board gets to put any reasonable restrictions on to that." He stated the board could state they have to put a fence up between the property and the neighbors and you have to have this many feet in the coop for this many chickens. He continued that what is reasonable and unreasonable are between the two parties, the board and applicant or the court system if they decide to go that route.

Councilman Addis stated he feels that they need an ordinance no matter what.

Mayor Lincoln stated if they are already permitted in those two areas why would not, we want to have some kind of verbiage that states what you can and cannot have.

Solicitor Witt stated right now, the city indirectly has it but it is at the discretion of the Zoning Hearing Board. He explained if Council wants to have a more specific parameters of what the

responsibilities are for chicken raising in those areas, then you would want to have a more specific ordinance.

Mayor Lincoln questioned right now they can go to the Zoning Hearing Board, and if they are not happy, they then go to Court of Common Pleas, correct?

Solicitor Witt answered, yes.

Mayor Lincoln then stated if the city has their own, then it would eliminate them going to a higher court, correct?

Solicitor Witt answered yes and no. He explained yes, if the city had clearly articulated criteria in an ordinance, then everyone is subject to these criteria. He continued that it could be challenged that it is unreasonable criteria and you would have to open it up to more than a special exemption use. Witt reiterated that someone could still argue that it is unreasonable restrictions.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the city could put a permit fee for someone applying for chickens and use that money for this?

Tom Currey stated it is \$325.00.

Mayor Lincoln stated that is zoning. He clarified that if council decided to have an ordinance of their own and added a fee on this, then we would use that money for this. He questioned if the county has any say on this.

Solicitor Witt answered the county does not have a say on the ordinance.

Councilman Keedy stated it would be expensive to redo the Zoning Ordinance.

Solicitor Witt answered there is considerable cost involved in it; the work involved and the notices the code officer pointed out and the hearings that you have to go through to do this.

Councilman Keedy questioned if the chickens would then be considered pets?

Solicitor Witt answered no.

Councilman Keedy gave a scenario of him being a landlord and has a trouble tenant and that tenant is not leaving. He continued that this falls back on who is going to do this the right way. He questioned if the chickens are running around and neighbors are complaining, how long until the chickens are not allowed in that nuisance area? He asked if they can be stopped.

Solicitor Witt answered you have to go through the process.

Councilman Keedy questioned if it is a lengthy process.

Solicitor Witt explained this is what South Connellsville is going through right now by receiving multiple complaints over a stretch of weeks as a result of chickens running loose. They are trying to deal with how do they deal with this issue.

Councilman Keedy stated there is only so much council can do.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the city can limit how many permits are given.

Solicitor Witt answered there is a procedure where you can limit the total number of permits issued.

Councilman Addis stated that someone having multiple tenants and there is not enough yard for tenants to have chickens, should not that be up to the landlord to decide if they want to allow their tenants to have chickens. He noted it is just like a dog and cat. He continued it would take the landlord out of it.

Solicitor Witt answered it should. He noted he would advise the landlord to have it in the lease.

Councilman Addis stated he would personally consider the chickens like cats in the city and we have a problem with those.

Councilman Topper questioned who does the code enforcement in South Connellsville.

Solicitor Witt answered they hire a third-party code officer.

Councilman Topper stated then it would be a code officer dealing with neighbors' complaints and chickens getting out.

Solicitor Witt stated the code officer in South Connellsville had to stake out to identify how many chickens there are.

Mayor Lincoln stated he thought South Connellsville's ordinance stated the chickens had to be enclosed and not running around.

Solicitor Witt answered he is unsure.

Councilman Addis questioned if the city could make the owners band or tag the chickens around the leg.

Solicitor Witt answered that could be done as a requirement.

Councilman Addis stated farmers do it and that takes the issue of finding out who they belong to out of the equation.

Solicitor Witt stated this comes back to the people who do not follow the rules.

Councilman Addis questioned that if they do not follow the rules, why can't the chickens be taken out?

Solicitor Witt replied then who is responsible for that, which is the issue they have in South Connellsville.

Councilman Topper stated he is sure there are people who would do it responsibly and could absolutely benefit from it and it be a very nice thing. He continued, unfortunately, there are people who would not be responsible. He added what worries him is do they confiscate someone's chickens and what do we do with them; do we sell them to someone else who wants chickens? He stated when he moved back to Connellsville Twelve Years ago, his neighbor had chickens and a rooster. He added the neighbors stated they did not know it was a rooster and it was loud day and night for months until someone turned them in. He questioned now do they take a rooster away from someone who did not know it was a rooster? He noted she was not happy to give her rooster up. He clarified that he worries about what are they going to do when they run into an issue.

Tom Currey stated that you cannot identify sexes of the young chickens.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned what if neighbors decide to take matters into their own hands.

Councilman Topper stated they is what they are worried about.

Councilman Addis stated the neighbors are doing that with the cats and they are not doing anything.

Councilman Keedy stated it could be an issue that when you go to the magistrate to try and rectify the issue, it continues in the court system and takes time and the problem is still happening.

Councilman Topper agreed that it will just drag out for months.

Councilman Keedy stated you have to worry about those that do not do the right thing.

Mayor Lincoln stated they deal with code enforcement every day.

Councilman Addis stated yes, every day.

Name unknown in the audience questioned that there is no ordinance in the city, so how can you enforce something that is not in writing? She continued that Tom keeps bringing up the industrial and highway and she does not live in the industrial or highway so that does not affect her or anyone else that we are fighting for this for. She questioned again; how do you enforce something that is not actually an ordinance and keep going back to this special exemption which is not fair. She continued that there are drunk drivers on the road every day, we are not taking cars off of people every day and there are people who are irresponsible in every area of their life and people who overdose on opioids and we are still giving them out in hospitals. She added you cannot say that some people are irresponsible so nobody gets to benefit from this. She stated she lived on a farm and now lives in a rural area and stated chickens do not attract all the pests, they eat the rodents, people have misconceptions about chickens. She again stated one bad egg can ruin it for everyone. She again stated that when there is no clear ordinance, it is not fair to try and enforce something that is not even in writing legally, and keep going back to the special exemption that does not apply to her and everyone she is fighting for. She went on with cats are more dangerous than chickens and chickens are not dangerous or carry diseases where a cat can send you to the hospital. She explained a cat bit and what it could do to a human. She asked council to consider all of this and not punish the responsible people because of the irresponsible people.

Solicitor Witt stated his understanding is that it is covered under the Zoning Ordinance. He suggested deferring this to the Zoning Officer.

Name unknown in the audience stated there is not one word in the ordinance that states chickens.

Tom Currey, Code Officer, stated she is exactly right.

Councilman Keedy stated that it is not allowed because it does not say it is allowed, correct?

Tom Currey answered that is exactly right, it is a use that is not listed. He explained there is a table with specific uses in all the specific zones and all uses could not possibly be listed. He continued that there is a section that states that if a use is not listed, which is use by special exemption in the industrial zone and the C2 highway zone district.

Mayor Lincoln questioned that if it does not say you are allowed to have chickens in our zoning ordinance, that means that you are not allowed to have chickens.

Tom Currey answered correct but there is "other uses not listed" special exemption under industrial zone and C2 highway zone areas only.

Mayor Lincoln questioned why is it those areas only.

Tom Currey answered the city has to provide for every single use thing. He continued the City has impound lots which are not listed in the zoning ordinance and that is use by special exemption in a proper zone. He clarified that every single use not listed falls into that category.

Mayor Lincoln questioned in order for the chickens to be allowed anywhere in the city, they would have to create a new ordinance.

Solicitor Witt answered amend the zoning ordinance.

Tom Currey answered yes, a new use of the zoning ordinance and everyone affected would have to go through the whole process of changing the zoning.

Councilman Keedy questioned if you put the restrictions in the ownership to raising and what all would go into raising them in the zoning ordinance or a separate chicken ordinance?

Solicitor Witt answered it would probably be easier to have the more specific rules in a separate ordinance, but you would have to change the zoning ordinance to permit it as a general rule with the caveat with the condition it would adhere to any other ordinance that the city might pass with the raising of the chickens.

Tom Currey stated they apply for a special exemption for the Highway Zone right next to Rowan's, "you can have chickens right there or cows, you have to apply for the special exemption and we would take the Chicken Ordinance and say this is what we recommend doing and the guidelines that you should follow to come through and apply to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Zoning Hearing Board would say ok, you match these and what other stipulations apply."

Name unknown questioned what if someone does not live in that area is what you are not addressing.

Tom Currey answered that it is addressed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Name unknown stated if you do not live in the Industrial area, if you do not live in that area and cannot have the exemption.

Tom Currey questioned where she was when they passed the Zoning Ordinance. He apologized and stated that is the law.

Mayor Lincoln stated council would have to change that.

Name unknown stated other towns have the ordinance and it is not really being addressed.

Councilman Keedy asked Currey to let him know if he is wrong in stating goats is not listed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Tom Currey answered correct.

Councilman Keedy questioned if he is allowed to have goats in the C2 and Industrial Zones.

Tom Currey answered correct.

Councilman Keedy questioned, anything not listed in the ordinance falls under C2 and Industrial Zone?

Tom Currey answered correct.

Councilman Keedy then stated to get the chickens anywhere else in the city, we have to amend the Zoning Ordinance since it is not specified throughout?

Councilman Topper stated in order to allow the chickens in any other area in the city, they would have to go through the process of changing the zoning in every area that we want to allow it. He noted that takes times and can not be done with the stroke of a pen.

Solicitor Witt stated it would take several months.

Councilman Topper stated that would be step one before they do anything else. He continued, then they would have to enact an ordinance for where it is allowed to have all the guidelines and everything that would set. He stated council will do their homework and look into it but it will not be something that will be on next month's agenda and just say yes to unfortunately.

Name unknown stated she appreciates council's time and looking into it.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is and Councilman Addis both get code enforcement complaints everyday and its all through the City and dealing with rental properties. He noted there are a lot of slumlords in the city and that is his fear of it all, adding more to that.

Name unknown questioned residential homes and eliminating apartments.

Mayor Lincoln stated he wants that and would love to do owner occupied, but know Solicitor Witt would tell him that would be discriminating against rental properties. He stated they could do restrictions to cut it down and add something like if there was multiple code violations or abuser or does not pay their taxes on their property. He continues there are things they can add for levels to protect council so they can do it correctly.

Name unknown stated as the pastor prayed earlier, if this is really the pursuit of happiness, the government is really infringing on our rights to be able to have freedom to raise our own food for our families. She continued, she has four children and six people in her house and I have five people in my house and I cannot eat store bought eggs. She noted she gets violently sick if she eats a store-bought egg. She added they should be able to have the freedom in the United States, free country and this really is our constitutional rights to be able to feed our families.

Mayor Lincoln stated they want to do it correctly; it will take time since council must amend the zoning and have public meetings and a very lengthy process to do.

Councilman Keedy noted certain people will not do this the right way and they have to figure out what to do to minimize that. He then questioned Currey when someone is going through the Zoning Hearing Board for an exemption, are the neighbors notified of this?

Tom Currey answered yes.

Councilman Keedy questioned if a person is applying for a chicken permit, would the neighbors be notified to weigh in on that?

Solicitor Witt answered if it is a special exception.

Councilman Keedy stated if council were to do an ordinance on that.

Solicitor Witt answered no.

There was a gentleman in the audience, from Connellsville Township, who stated he was there to hear what was going on because there was a woman in the township gathering signatures to allow chickens in the township. He noted zoning in the township is with the county. He noted he has had more complaints about chickens the past seven years than anything else.

Solicitor Witt stated the county amended their ordinance three or four years ago to not permit chickens because of the complaints that the county had gotten. He continued that prior to that it was permitted.

Shane Bunting, Senior at Connellsville Area School District and President of the Bible Club.

Mr. Bunting stated his club is hoping with the Easter season coming up, he is hoping they can host an Easter Service for the Community. He added they are willing to work with the Connellsville Ministerial Association if need be since they do not want to step on any toes. He continued it would be on Thursday, April 17th with an arrival time of 5 PM with games and a worship band with service at 5:30 PM from Pennsville. He continued there would be prayers from various students, three speakers and close with a communion service. Bunting stated there are girls who would like to head up a youth ministry during the service. He added there would be no admission fee and open to the community. His request is to have this service at Yough River Park.

Mayor Lincoln stated he feels this is a great thing and he is happy the Bible Club has grown and getting other students involved. He noted he knows at one point the club's room was full of

students and he commended Bunting and his club for their work. He added he is praying for good weather for the service. He stated the solicitor will write up a resolution.

Councilman Addis thanked Bunting for keeping the club going and being a good leader.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT: By Christian Korba

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thomas W. McFadden, Secretary, Connellsville Veterans Commission, Memorial Day Parade

Resolution No. 3-1-2025: "To close North and South First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets, West Crawford Avenue to North Pittsburgh Street at East Crawford Avenue, North Pittsburgh Street to the Memorial at Memorial Blvd. from 8:30 AM until 12 Noon for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, 2025; pending approval of Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Foreman and Penn DOT; Further authorizing the Veterans Commission to use the PA System, Podium, and chairs for the Memorial Day Program."

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 3-2-2025: "To accept the minutes from the February 18,2025 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 3-3-2025: "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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report: Read by Mayor Lincoln
CDBG and CV Report

Resolution No. 3-4-2025: “To amend The City of Connellsville’s Right-To-Know Policy, pursuant to Section 504(a) of the Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101-67.3104 (“RTKL”) as follows: Section I: Shall list the City’s website as Connellsville@Connellsville.us ; Section II: Business hours to read 8 AM to 5 PM; Section IV: A. To replace Vernon E. Ohler AORO with Rita Smith, AORO and to remove the fax number; B. Add the ‘City of Connellsville’s Request Form’ to the first line; Section VI: A. To replace Fayette County District Attorney Richard Bower with Michael A. Aubele.”

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

Resolution No. 3-5-2025: “To open bids received for the installation of tree planters within City owned parking lots as part of the Connellsville Community Tree Program USDN Grant; funding to be paid through the grant.”

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

BID RESULTS SHEET

Project: CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE PARKING LOTS GREENSCAPING PROJECT

Location: CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PA

Bid Date: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

W.E. # 25612

	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1	C.H. & D. Enterprises, Inc. ATTN: Stacy Shuga	724-925-9832 724-925-9833	\$
2	E2 Landscape and Construction ATTN: Chandler Lawrence	412-482-4828	\$ 141,500. ⁰⁰
3	EI Grande Industries ATTN: Joseph Alvarez	724-379-4133	\$ 134,245. ⁰⁰
4	Esken Landscaping ATTN: Tim Esken	412-760-5603 412-655-7441	\$
5	Fay-West tree management ATTN: Benjamin Wiltrout	724-887-5435 724-887-0141	\$
6	Grahamboys LLC DBA Graham Construction ATTN: Megan Graham	724-566-3244	\$
7	Jay Masonry LLC ATTN: george jay	724-880-9776	\$ 48,300
8	KGD Contracting ATTN: BUD Deguffroy	724-875-0752	\$ 59,900. ⁰⁰
9	N & N Landscaping LLC ATTN: Nate Nusskern	724-272-4736	\$ 216,128. ⁴⁰
10	Piccolomini Contractors Inc ATTN: Mario	724-437-7946	\$ 99,550
11	Redstone Excavating, LLC ATTN: John Kormanik	724-785-8555 724-785-9595	\$
12	Verardi Landscapes LLC ATTN: Nick Verardi	412-313-3679	\$ 124,398
13	Wright Asphalt and Concrete ATTN: Eric Houk	724-630-1282	\$
14			\$
15			\$

Resolution No. 3-6-2025: "To accept the bid of Jay Masonry LLC in the amount of \$48,300.00 for the installation of tree planters within City owned parking lots as part of the Connellsville Community Tree Program USDN Grant; funding to be paid through the grant."

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

Resolution No. 3-7-2025: "To amend the agenda to add approval of the CAHS Bible Club's request for use of the Yough River Park and to approve such request for such use on April 17, 2025 at 5 PM upon completion of a Utilization Form and submission of all required

documentation. Amendment is made to agenda pursuant to the Sunshine Act exception Section 712.1©, without waiver of the cost.”

Mayor Lincoln stated Solicitor Witt is going to pay the fee to rent the park. He noted they need to come to City Hall for a Utilization Form to fill out with whatever is needed that day. He requested they have a flyer made up for the service and added the he and the City will share it on the Facebook Pages to help get the word out.

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

Resolution No. 3-8-2025: “A resolution of City Council of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, declaring its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the municipal records manual approved on December 16, 2008.

Whereas, a Local Government Records Committee was created by Act 428 of 1968 and empowered thereby to make rules and regulations for records disposition; and,

Whereas, the Municipal Records Manual was approved by said committee on December 16, 2008; and,

Whereas, the City of Connellsville desires to dispose of records according to statutory requirements;

Whereas, the following list of items will be destroyed;

YEAR	RECORD
1995	Police Petty Cash Receipts
2011	Police Petty Cash Receipts
2013	Police Petty Cash Receipts
2014	Police Petty Cash Receipts
2015	Police Petty Cash Receipts
2017	Police Petty Cash Receipts
2014	Daily Cash Records
2012	Accounts Receivable Records
2010	General Fund Canceled Checks
2005	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2006	Per Capita Tax Receipts
2006	Recreation Dept Applications
2006	Dispatcher Applications
2006	Public Works Applications
2001	Liquid Fuels Reports
2002	Liquid Fuels Reports
2005	Public Works Applications
2004	Public Advertisements
2005	Public Advertisements
2006	Public Advertisements
2002	U-Comp reports
2004	U-Comp reports
2005	U-Comp reports
2003	Liquid Fuels Reports
1996	Public Advertisements
2013	Police Contract Negotiations
2001	Admin Union Negotiations
1998	Tax Appeals
2001	Rec Board Bank Statements
2008	COBRA Forms
2001	Fire Escrow Bank Statements
2000	U-Comp reports
1998	Material Bid Forms
1998	Local Tax Reports
1999	Local Tax Reports
2000	Local Tax Reports
2001	Local Tax Reports
1999	DCED Reports
1998	Fire Contract Negotiations
2000	Workers Comp Claims
2000	Public Advertisements
2000	Liability Policy
2000	Police Applications
1998	Sinking Fund Bank Statements
2000	Sinking Fund Bank Statements
1997	Paving Project Bid Packet
1998	Public Works Contract Negotiations
1998	Payroll Account Staements
1994	TAN Loans
1995	TAN Loans
1996	TAN Loans
2006	Police Contract Negotiations
2015	Community Center Payroll
2016	Budget Papers
2017	Budget Papers
1987	CDBG Grant Records
1980	Alarm System Agreements
1987	Police Equipment Bid Packets
1986	Paving Project Bid Packet
1987	Tax Exoneration Forms

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, that it intends to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008.”

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

April 1, 2025, Vernon E. Ohler Day

Resolution No. 3-9-2025: “To name April 1st ‘VERNON E OHLER DAY’ in recognition of his longstanding employment, commitment, and support of the city.”

Mayor Lincoln stated Vernon Ohler started this position when the finances were bad and the city has come a long way since he started. He continued that it has been ten years they have been through a lot together including two federal disasters. Mayor Lincoln stated they are so thankful for Vernon Ohler’s guidance and dedication with numerous different projects and happenings. He added on a personal level he thanks him and will miss him. He pointed out that the city is better because of Vernon. He stated that Vernon has dedicated his entire life of 45 years serving the city. Mayor Lincoln thanked Vernon Ohler for everything and for his service to the city and wished him a great retirement.

Vernon Ohler thanked City Council, noting their job is the most thankless in the world. He added council is in good hands and Rita Smith will do a good job. He added he worked under 7 mayors, 30+ council people and 3 or 4 solicitors and stated it has been fun and he can walk out with his head held high.

Mayor Lincoln congratulated Vernon Ohler on his retirement and wished him well, adding it is well deserved and thanked him for everything.

Councilman Keedy stated he remembers Vernon being sworn in on August 15, 2015 and stating “Lets get started.” He noted Vernon led the city close to the finish line, he has learned so much from him and would not be in the position on council or in Jeanette had he not learned from Vernon. He added that he gave whole-heartedly and are forever a member of the community. Councilman Keedy noted they owe him a lot of gratitude and respect with all that he accomplished in the city. He continued that he has made Connellsville a better place and council better people and he will be missed.

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

REMINDERS:

March 19th, Recreation Board's Spring Fling, Aaron's Building, 6 PM – 9 PM, \$50, call James 919-795-0112

March 28th, 11 AM – 4:30 PM, Blood Drive, Community Center, 724-628-5500

April 11th, East Kids Night out and East Egg Hunt, 6 PM – 8 PM, Brooks Block Party, 518 W Crawford Avenue, \$15 per child, (724) 208-2861

April 12th, Free Community Easter Dinner, 4 PM – 7 PM, Albright United Methodist Church, 1626 S Pittsburgh Street, Free to eat in, \$5 to take out

April 12th, Night at The Races, 5 PM – 10 PM, Elks, McPoyle Foundation

April 13th, 2 PM – 4 PM, The Chamber of Commerce and Connellsville Recreation Board are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at East Park from 2 PM -4 PM. Free for children walking age – 12 yrs. Children will be separated by ages for the hunt. Mayor Lincoln stated they are accepting donations such as plastic eggs and candy to fill the eggs.

April 19th, YRTC's Race/Walk, Yough River Park, register at 8 AM, Start time is 9 AM

April 19th, Clean-up Day, Connellsville Recreation Board and Chamber of Commerce will sponsor this day. Information available soon. 724-628-5500 Chamber of Commerce

April 21st, 11 AM – 4:30 PM, Central Fellowship Church's Blood drive

May 3rd, 8 AM, Community Yard Sales by the Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500, \$5 register. Rain date is May 10th

Mayor Lincoln stated the Amish Donuts will be back on May 3rd. He noted the Neon Night's Race is that evening and the wine event at Yough Park.

COUNCILMAN KEEDY:

Resolution No. 3-10-2025: “To amend Resolution No. 2-9-2025 to read as follows:

To permit the following road closures for the 2025 Red, White and Boom Festival from 9 AM to 11 PM on July 5, 2025: North Arch Street from West Peach Street to East Crawford Avenue and West Apple Street from Meadow Lane to Water Street; pending approval from the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Public Works Foreman; further approving items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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

Resolution No. 3-11-2025: “To close Water Street from Fairview Avenue to West Peach Street starting at 8 PM until 11 PM for Fireworks on July 5, 2025; pending approval from the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Public Works Foreman.”

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

Resolution No. 3-12-2025: “To abate and exonerate the City Treasurer from collecting 2025 Real Estate Taxes on City owned properties, which shall be exempt from 2025 City Real Estate Taxes known and located as follows: Connellsville Community Center, lots 15, 23 and 31, 201 East Fairview Avenue, \$333.59 and Connellsville Community Center, PT Lot 7, South Cottage Avenue, \$55.14.”

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

Rita Smith, City Clerk, stated the CD for \$250,000 was up and it is in the Park and Recreation’s Bank Account right now, just holding it until we see who has the best rate for a CD. She noted quotes are from CFS, Mid Penn Bank and Somerset Trust.

Councilman Keedy opened quotes from banks as follows: CFS was 4.01% for 12 months, Mid Penn is 4.25% for 12 months, Somerset Trust gave two sealed envelopes: 4.30% for 12 months. The second envelope was concerning different money market accounts.

Resolution No. 3-13-2025: “To invest \$250,000 in to Somerset at a rate 4.30%, for a 12-month Certificate of Deposit, said money is a rollover from a 2024 CD.”

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

Resolution No. 3-14-2025: “To enter into an agreement with CreditTech Collection Solutions, for the collection of late payments of service fees, charges, and penalties owed to the City of Connellsville.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the Quality of Life is included in this.

Councilman Keedy answered yes. He explained if someone owes \$400 and their fees are \$26, then the person who owes would pay \$426.

Councilman Addis questioned if this is before or after they go to court.

Solicitor Witt stated they do not have to go to court because these are unpaid fines.

Councilman Keedy explained the city will send them everyone who did not pay in January and give them an extra 30 days in case the check got lost or something, then send them the names, addresses and amounts owed and they will then send out the notices. He continued there are no fees to the city for their services because it is paid by the person who owes the money to the city.

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

COUNCILMAN ADDIS:

Health Officer’s Report

Fayette EMS

New Haven Hose Report

Reminder: Knox Box forms for businesses are available at City Hall or can be emailed to you, 724-628-2020 extension 201, Shelley. All other questions see Tom.

Mayor Lincoln thanked New Haven Hose for their assistance with the storm over the weekend. He added Chief Layton stated 22 men came out to help with that. He continued that with those men and Public Works, they went around and cleaned up the entire city. Mayor Lincoln thanked everyone for coming out, noting it takes a lot of time and effort to do this work.

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Resolution No. 3-15-2025: “To permit The Girls Softball League to lease Woodruff Field and East Park from 5 PM until 9 PM Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 AM until 9 PM beginning April 2025 through July 31, 2025; further granting use of lights and concession stand; Lease payment to be in the amount of \$1,000; pending contract agreement and proof of insurance.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the Woodruff Park project will affect the usage of the park.

Kerry Bell answered the restrooms would be upgraded during the use and the dugouts and fencing will be done after September in the fall.

Mayor Lincoln requested the leagues be notified of the upgrades to take place.

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

Resolution No. 3-16-2025: “To approve Dunbar Men’s Travel Softball Team use of Woodruff Ball Field on Tuesday and Friday nights starting April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025; Lease payment to be in the amount of \$300.00; pending contract agreement and proof of insurance.”

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

Councilman Topper thanked the leagues for meeting with the Recreation Board to make sure there are no conflicting schedules.

Resolution No. 3-17-2025: “To advertise for the position of Summer Playground Instructor(s); applications to be sent to City of Connellsville, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425 by 4:00 PM on April 4, 2025; wages to be paid from the Recreation Account.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned how many instructors are they looking for hire.

Councilman Topper answered four. He added they are looking for sponsors and have two or more by now. He stated \$2,500 would set up one of the instructors for the summer, \$1,500 which are all taken and \$500 sponsorship to donate equipment for the instructors to use.

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

Resolution No. 3-18-2025: "To grant permission to the Jamie McPoyle Foundation in conjunction with the Connellsville Recreation Board to use Austin Park on Saturday, May 31, 2025 for an adult kickball tournament."

Mayor Lincoln stated Jamie McPoyle's green wall has been completed and survived the storm over the weekend.

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

Resolution No. 3-19-2025: "To enter into a contract with James Cox for the use of the concession stand at Yough Park for \$125.00 per month from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026."

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

Councilman Topper requested residents be responsible in the parks and reminded citizens there are parks in all the cameras with the majority being good working cameras and lights are on. He stated the splash pad at 12th Street Park will not be ready until the weather is warmer.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is hoping by next meeting to see a pricing plan to rent that park pavilion and possibly a private rent for the splash pad for a party.

Councilman Topper stated he does not know if they are going to do a private for the splash pad. He continued that he does not want to tell people the first year of it that they cannot use it this

weekend or next, etc. He stated it would take a pretty big check to exclude kids from using the splash pad. He explained if someone rents a pavilion that they will need to know it may be a shared splash pad.

Mayor Lincoln stated Public Works dug the trench out for the power to the polls for the cameras and they will have a light up like Washington Park. He stated four cameras are working and the other four should be hooked up this week and the whole park will be under surveillance.

Councilman Topper asked the public to watch their language and if anyone sees anything, let the police know. He noted they want the parks to be fun and safe and are investing a lot of money into them. He added they want everyone to go there and have fun with no issues.

COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:

Public Works Report

Councilwoman Tiberio reminded residents there are still recycling bins available for purchase through the secretary at City Hall.

Mayor Lincoln explained he will be doing a video about recycling and where your recycling goes, with a resident, Mr. Waggot. He discussed the video.

Resolution No. 3-20-2025: “To amend Resolution No. 2-11-2025 to read as follows: “To adopt Bill No. 1 of 2025; **AN ORDINANCE REGULATING MOTOR VEHICLES TO STOP AT SAID STREET BELOW TO PERMIT FINES AND PENALTIES ALLOWED BY THE MOTOR VEHICLE CODE.**

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Connellsville, as is hereby ordained and enacted by the Authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The following location be established as “STOP SIGN” and such sign shall be erected in a position as to face traffic approaching the named street. Every driver of a vehicle approaching said sign shall not proceed through erected sign.

STOP SIGN

Exiting North Penn Street at the intersection of Peter Street.

SECTION 2. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall upon conviction pay a fine of \$25.00 dollars and costs.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage. This Ordinance is duly ORDAINED AND ENACTED by at least three members of the City Council of the City of Connellsville at a duly advertised public meeting held on the 18th day of February, 2025.”

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

Resolution No. 3-24-2025: "To advertise for bids for a Ford F550 dump truck, as is condition, bids must be accompanied by a check and/or money order for 10% of said bid; sealed bids will be received at Connellsville City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, until 4:00 PM Tuesday, April 15, 2025."

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

Resolution No. 3-21-2025: "To hire Craig Younkin as a seasonal employee for the Public Works Department with funds being taken out of line item 430.145."

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

Resolution No. 3-22-2025: "To hire Will Snyder as a seasonal employee for the Public Works Department with funds being taken out of line item 430.145."

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

Resolution No. 3-23-2025: "To rehire Carter Wilson as a seasonal employee for the Public Works Department with funds being taken out of line item 430.145."

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

Resolution No. 3-26-2025: "To advertise for bids for a Salt Dogg salt spreader, as is condition, bids must be accompanied by a check and/or money order for 10% of said bid; sealed bids will be received at Connellsville City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville until 4:00 PM Tuesday, April 15, 2025."

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

Resolution No. 3-25-2025: “To advertise for bids for a Hiniker 9-foot snow plow, as is condition, bids must be accompanied by a check and/or money order for 10% of said bid; sealed bids will be received at Connellsville City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville until 4:00 PM Tuesday, April 15, 2025.”

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

Resolution No. 3-27-2025: “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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.