

**Connellsville City Council MINUTES**  
**5 PM – OCTOBER 15, 2024**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Led by Chuck Hubble

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**CITY CONTROLLER'S REPORT:** Read by Christian Korba, City Controller

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Paula Johnston, Diversity and Inclusion Board, Pride In the Park 2025, June 7, 2025

**Resolution No. 10-1-2024:** "To grant permission to the Diversity and Inclusion Board to use Yough Park on Saturday, June 7, 2025 for their Pride Fest 2025 from 10 AM to 5 PM; further granting items listed on the Utilization Form."

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

Toni Colland, Payne AME Church, Election Day Dinner, November 5<sup>th</sup>

**Resolution No. 10-2-2024:** "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, in front of the church, 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 5, 2024 for their Election Day Dinners; pending approval of the Police Chief and Fire Chief"

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

Brooke Deason, Chamber of Commerce, Christmas Parade, December 7, 2024, Road closure request

Mayor Lincoln announced the chamber is planning the Christmas Parade and he is hopeful to get approval to use the bridge if it is open in November.

**Resolution No. 10-3-2024:** “To close South Pittsburgh Street from Green Street to West Crawford Avenue, West Crawford Avenue from North Pittsburgh Street to Eighth Street, Leisenring and Marietta for the Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Parade on December 7, 2024 at 5 PM; further authorizing use of road barriers and personnel to assist with traffic as requested on the Utilization Form; pending review and approval of Police Chief, Fire Chief and PennDOT.”

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

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 10-4-2024:** “To accept the minutes from the September 17, 2024 City Council Meeting.”

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

**Resolution No. 10-5-2024:** “To waive the Four-Day Resolution Rule to allow for items submitted after the Four-Day Rule to be read at the meeting tonight, such Resolutions will be marked with an asterisk.”

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

**MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report

Mayor Lincoln questioned the individual the police apprehended in only two days.

Chief Hammerle replied the person confessed to just about every crime the police believe he committed. He added that he filed seven criminal complaints on the person.

Mayor Lincoln asked if the majority of the property that was stolen was recovered.

Chief Hammerle answered the burglary at the Brewery, the front door was broken and the TV was taken off the wall and the TV was recovered and intact. He continued the big items that were recovered like two electric bikes, one valued at \$3,000, were recovered and not damaged and returned to the owners. Chief Hammerle informed council there was smaller items recovered as well. He stated the police did a great job and solved this quickly and got him off the streets.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if the cameras are almost operational at Washington Park.

Chief Hammerle answered he will discuss further in the meeting about the fence going up. He stated the cameras are up and wiring done. He noted he is aware there are complaints about the lighting and will look into lowering the lights so they are not shining in someone's windows. Chief Hammerle stated it should be done in a week or two.

#### CDBG and CV Report

There were no bids received for the sale of the 2008 Ford Explorer; therefore, the following resolutions were not read.

**Resolution:** "To open bids for the sale of a 2008 Ford Explorer, as is condition."

**Resolution:** "To accept the bid of \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the 2008 Ford Explorer, in as is condition; pending review and approval of City Solicitor."

**Resolution No. 10-6-2024:** "To grant the City Clerk permission to post the 2008 Ford Explorer that was previously advertised on the Municibid site to sell."

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

**Resolution No. 10-7-2024:** "To accept the Bid/Proposal of HRG for completion of the Lower West Side Comprehensive Plan at a price of \$122,000; Money to be paid by Appalachian Regional Commission Grant, Pennsylvania Statewide LSA Grant, and the City of Connellsville's General Fund (Capital Improvement Fund)."

Mayor Lincoln thanked City Clerk Ohler, Councilwoman Tiberio and Councilman Topper for meeting with both companies that bid on this and guide us on which way to go with this.

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

**Resolution No. 10-8-2024:** "A resolution of the City of Connellsville, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, as authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act (42 USC 5301 and 24 CFR Part 570), and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program."

Solicitor Witt stated this is what authorizes the submission of the City's CDBG Application and the projects that the City has selected.

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

**Resolution No. 10-9-2024:** “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. However, the Grantee will make all reasonable attempts to accommodate language access needs of residents requesting oral translation during citizens participation, income surveys and/or direct assistance intake activities including but not inclusive of public hearings, public notices, advertisements, income surveys and direct assistance intake documents.”

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

**Resolution No. 10-10-2024:** “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.”

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

**Resolution No. 10-11-2024:** “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](http://www.connellsville.us), [connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.connellsville.us), [connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com) .

Approved at the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Connellsville held October 15, 2024.”

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

**Resolution No. 10-12-2024:** “To adopt the Drug Policy as presented by the Safety Committee into the “City of Connellsville Personnel Policy and Procedure Handbook.”

Solicitor Witt stated this is make sure the City has a fully compliant Drug Policy for the employees.

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

**Reminders October and November:**

October 19, 2024, Fall Afternoon in the Park, Cameron Park, Noon – 5 PM, Chalk Art Festival, Entertainment by Laurie and Shirley Acoustic Duo and Bond Turner beginning 1 PM – 5 PM, Light food/beverages sold, sign a team of 1 to 4 people, Vote for your favorite drawing, for information call James at 919-795-0112 or Janine at 724-366-4003

October 20<sup>th</sup>, Kids Day at Crawford School of Terror, 12 PM – 3 PM, \$5

October 26<sup>th</sup>, Central Fellowship Church’s free lunch, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Christian Church’s free lunch on Mondays, 11:30 AM – 1 PM

October 29<sup>th</sup>, New Haven Hose’s Halloween Parade, 7 PM, west side

October 31<sup>st</sup>, Trick or Treat, 6 PM – 8 PM

November 7<sup>th</sup>, Fayette Gives, 8 AM – 8 PM, [fayettegives.org](http://fayettegives.org), 96 local charities will be involved this year

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Christmas in the Park, 11 AM, Yough Park, Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM – 1 PM, Community Thanksgiving Meal, Senior Center, Contact Jessica at City Church to volunteer or donate: 724-628-0700

**COUNCILMAN KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 10-13-2024:** “To pay \$7,428.00 to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System for the 2024 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 Addis, Keedy, Tiberio and Topper and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 10-14-2024:** “To pay \$378,444.00 into the Police Pension Plan in order to satisfy the 2024 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 Addis, Keedy, Tiberio and Topper and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 10-15-2024:** “To pay \$99,156.00 into the Fire Pension Plan in order to satisfy the 2024 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 Addis, Keedy, Tiberio and Topper and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

**COUNCILMAN ADDIS:**

Health Officer’s Report

Health/Code/Zoning Officer Currey asked residents to not use extension cords with heaters and keep items away from the heaters.

New Haven Hose Report

Fayette EMS Report

**COUNCILMAN TOPPER:**

**Resolution No. 10-16-2024:** “To allow the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture permission to spray in all necessary City parks for treatment of the Spotted Lanternfly.”

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

**Resolution No. 10-17-2024:** “To approve HR Fencing to install a security fence at Washington Park to secure camera and internet equipment at a price of \$2,422.00 as recommended retroactively from the Recreation Board. Money to be taken from line-item REC 450.374.”

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

**Resolution No. 10-18-2024:** “To allow the Recreation Board to hold the inaugural "A Fall Afternoon in the Park/Chalk Art Contest" at Cameron Park on Saturday, October 19, 2024 and also grant permission to block off Carnegie Avenue from East Fairview Avenue to South Street from 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM; pending approval of the Chief of Police and Fire Chief.”

Mayor Lincoln stated there will be live entertainment in the band shell that the Garden Club has fundraised and built at the park. He added it will be a nice day to show up and see the new improvements to this park and the Recreation Board had the basketball court sealed. He noted light food and beverages will be sold. Mayor Lincoln asked residents to come out and there will be team building activities and fun for the whole family from noon to five at Cameron Park.

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

Councilman Topper thanked everyone who supported Tangled Up In Brew. He added there is nothing taken from tax dollars and all money is used from these events. He noted last year they used a lot of that money to give towards the summer sports programs and pay \$30 per kid which is half of it and that allowed more kids to join. Councilman Topper stated they are now getting back on track after COVID and it is paying off. He thanked everyone for a good summer with the Recreation Board.

#### **COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:**

##### Public Works Report

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Public Works Department for setting up and tearing down at Tangled Up In Brew. He noted they do a lot of work for this fundraiser and he stated how much he appreciates it. He added they keep the city clean and they are out doing it every day. Mayor Lincoln added he gets notified about things, gives it to Jimmy and he handles it. Mayor Lincoln stated they have another new employee, Vito, and it is going very well. He acknowledged when a department is not fully staffed, it is stressful. He continued when there was a power outage on Wills Road, the guys came out immediately and blocked the road off and made sure people were safe and not in the area. Mayor Lincoln noted the job is not 9 AM to 5 PM, it is 24/7. He again stated he appreciates them so much for what they do.

Mayor Lincoln stated he is hopeful that at the November meeting, the bridge will be open and people will be traveling over the bridge.



**Resolution No. 10-19-2024:** “That this meeting of the City Council does hereby adjourn.”

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