

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
5 PM – JULY 16, 2024

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jason Bandamer, PE In The Park, Requested an extension of PE In the Park at East Park. He noted there has been more children in this program since the Recreation Board paid half the tuition of each child that enrolled. He added the Fayette County Drug and Alcohol paid for twenty weeks of free PE In The Park for children.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if Bandamer's Liability Insurance would extend another week.

Mr. Bandamer answered he would get his insurance extended.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Charles W. Matthews, Absent

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

Mayor Lincoln announced they had an Audit Committee Meeting and the auditors stated they need to reformat the Controller's Report for the City Council Meetings. He noted that he would like for the auditors to know this has been done.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 7-1-2024: "To accept the minutes from the June 18, 2024 City Council Meeting."

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

Resolution No. 7-2-2024: "To waive the Four-Day Resolution Rule to allow for items submitted after the Four-Day Rule to be read at the meeting tonight, such Resolutions will be marked with an asterisk."

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

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln stated Chief Hammerle has been working with the IT person and Ron Rulli out at Washington Park. He continued that a pole has been dropped, lighting for the park has been installed, they are installing other electrical stuff then waiting for West Penn Power to drop the line to the poll and then when the quote comes back for the cameras, then hopefully we can get the security cameras in.

Chief Hammerle added they are looking at all the options.

Mayor Lincoln added once the cameras are in, that entire block area will be locked down. He noted they will also have surveillance cameras on Twelfth Street.

City Clerk Ohler noted he spoke with Armstrong Cable who stated there is access for internet into the Police Station at the dispatch center from both parks.

Mayor Lincoln added both Washington Street Park and Twelfth Street Park with both have security and monitored by the Police Station 24/7. He noted Twelfth Street Park is coming along nicely. He stated the building and pavilions are done and they are waiting for the splash pad to come in, they will redo the fencing, basketball courts and hoops. Mayor Lincoln stated the Foreman will be talking with Councilman Topper about removing the pine trees by the townhouses. He thanked Chief Hammerle for working on the security of the parks.

CDBG and CV Programs Report

Mayor Lincoln stated they will try to have a condensed Halloween Parade and hopes the bridge will be done by then.

Resolution No. 7-3-2024: "To close First Street to Seventh Street beginning 6:30 PM on October 29, 2024 for the New Haven Hose 115th Annual Halloween Parade, which begins at 7 PM; further authorizing items listed on the Utilization Form; pending review and approval of the Police Chief, Fire Chief and PennDOT."

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

Resolution No. 7-4-2024: "To close First Street to Seventh Street beginning 4:30 PM on August 24, 2024 for the New Haven Hose's Firemen's Festival, which begins at 5 PM; further authorizing items listed on the Utilization Form; pending review and approval of the Police Chief, Fire Chief and PennDOT."

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

Resolution No. 7-5-2024: “To close South Seventh Street from Leisenring to West Crawford Avenue on August 25, 2024 for New Haven Hose car show from 11 AM until 5 PM; further authorizing items listed on the Utilization Form; pending review and approval of the Police Chief, Fire Chief and PennDOT.”

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

Resolution No. 7-6-2024: “To appoint Ken Brooks, Jr. to the Connellsville Traffic Committee with a term ending January 1, 2029.”

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

Resolution No. 7-7-2024: “Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Fayette County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that the Mayor of the Municipality/Authority be authorized and directed to sign the attached Agreement on its behalf and the City Clerk be authorized and directed to attest the same.”

City Clerk Ohler stated this is for the Multimodal Grant. He noted the next one will be to select the engineer and get the process going.

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

Resolution No. 7-8-2024: “To approve the following Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Policy and Procedure as authorized under Appendix 7A of Publication 93 for Consultant Selection.”

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

Resolution No. 7-9-2024: “To advertise for testing for the City of Connellsville Police Force for the purpose of creating a new eligibility list of candidates.”

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

Mayor Lincoln stated this weekend the Ministerial Association is hosting an Adopt A Block Party at Yough Park from 1 PM until 6 PM. He noted there are lots of activities, they give out food and it is all free. He added this is a wonderful event and the first one without Pastor Smith.

Mayor Lincoln stated the Diversity and Inclusion Board is having an International Food Truck Festival on August 24th at Yough Park from 11 AM until 4 PM. He noted it is a back-to-school drive and we are asking people to come down with school supplies and try the food.

Reminders for July and August:

July 18th, August 1st, 15th and 29th, Farmer's Market, Yough Park, 5 PM – 8 PM

July 20th, Adopt a Block Party, Yough Park, 1 PM

July 27th, Croquet Tournament, East Park, Facebook: Connellsville Rec Board for information

August 14th, Corn Roast, Crawford's Cabin, 6 PM, \$7/RSVP Karen at 724-628-5344

August 24th, Diversity, and Inclusion Board's Food Truck Festival, Yough Park, 11 AM - 4 PM

August 31st, 9 AM – 9 PM & September 1st, 12 PM – 7 PM, Crawford's Craft & Vendor Show, Yough River Park at Crawford's Cabin, contact Ben: Bendjets15@gmail.com

Lion's Square concerts, Sundays 7 PM - 9 PM. This Sunday is "Working Men" Band

Tickets for the Porter Film Festival at the Porter Theater on Saturday, September 7th, 6 PM – 9 PM can be purchased at porter.ludus.com \$40. Benefits Connellsville Area Community Ministries

Tickets for Tangled Up In Brew will be available in August. Facebook: Tangled Up In Brew

COUNCILMAN KEEDY:

Resolution No. 7-10-2024: "To allocate all American Rescue Plan Act funds as reimbursement for public safety payroll for 2024."

Councilman Keedy stated he spoke with Clayton (auditor) and the Audit Committee; it was recommended that Council do this at their next meeting so they can close out all the filing they need to do at the beginning of the year for the ARPA money.

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

Councilman Keedy thanked council, PennDOT, Police and Fire Chiefs, Recreation Board for making the Red White and Boom Festival a success this year. He noted the west side was a good place and everyone pulled together to make sure it was going to happen. He thanked the Fire Chief for handling the spot fires with the fireworks and the Police Auxiliary, stating they were amazing. He thanked the sponsors and added it was a great success.

Mayor Lincoln added everyone did an awesome job and he was glad for the good weather.

COUNCILMAN ADDIS:

Health Officer's Report

Fayette EMS Report

Resolution No. 7-11-2024: "To adopt Bill No. 2 of 2024, Ordinance No. 1581: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY AND VACANT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES WITH A NOTARIZED REGISTRATION AND THE PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES; SETTING FORTH DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AGENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE POSTING OF SUCH PROPERTY; IMPLEMENTING A DUTY TO AMEND THE REGISTRATION; ESTABLISHING THE FEES FOR REGISTRATION AND APPLICABLE WAIVERS THEREFROM; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR APPEALS; PROVIDING THAT DELINQUENT REGISTRATION FEES SHALL BE A LIEN ON SUCH PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS; SETTING FORTH PROVISIONS REGARDING RIGHTS OF ENTRY INTO SUCH PROPERTY AND REGARDING SEARCH WARRANTS AND NOTICES; PROVIDING PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL REQUESTED INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE; SETTING FORTH VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER CODES; DECLARING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE ARE NONEXCLUSIVE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE ORDINANCE."

Mayor Lincoln thanked Councilman Addis for working on this ordinance, noting he knows it needed updated and renewed.

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

New Haven Hose Report by Chief Jeff Layton

Chief Layton stated when they place a BURNING BAN, the citizens are mostly compliant. He then discussed City Clerk, Veron Ohler, is working on the railroad trestle and how to get it secure from foot traffic.

City Clerk Ohler stated he believes that the new owners on the Township side may have already erected fencing.

Councilman Addis suggested putting something up on the City side.

City Clerk Ohler stated he is waiting on quotes and pricing.

Councilman Addis questioned if there is any more trouble with the caboose. He added there are people staying in it.

Chief Layton replied there has been issues, but the police seem to be doing a great job keeping people out from behind Martins.

Mayor Lincoln stated Councilwoman Tiberio is absent. He stated the Public Works is starting to paint the crosswalks and curbs and speed traps lines and they are out doing the parks.

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Resolution No. 7-12-2024: “To grant permission to General Braddock's Fish Club to use Yough River Park on September 28, 2024 for a Mentored Youth Fishing Day.”

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

Councilman Topper stated they will have people there to help the kids who have never fished before or are just getting into fishing. He added they will stock the river and have plenty of help to teach kids.

Resolution No. 7-13-2024: “To grant permission to General Braddock's Fish Club to use Yough River Park on September 29, 2024 for their annual club picnic; further authorizing items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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

Resolution No. 7-14-2024: “To grant permission to General Braddock's Fish Club to have alcohol at Yough River Park on September 29, 2024 for their Club Picnic.”

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

Resolution No. 7-15-2024: “To grant permission to General Braddock’s Fish Club to use Yough River Park on June 13th through June 15th, 2025 for the Yough River Rally; further authorizing items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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

Resolution No. 7-16-2024: “To grant permission to the Connellsville Recreation Board to utilize the entire property of East Park on Saturday, July 27, 2024 for their Croquet Tournament Event; further granting use of items listed on the Utilization Form.”

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

Resolution No. 7-17-2024: “To extend PE In The Park by one week and grant permission to use East Park for the week of August 5th through August 9th, 2024.”

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

The above resolution fell into the category as one of the exceptions of the Sunshine Act.

Councilman Topper stated the Croquet Tournament is next weekend and he believes they are still accepting signups. He stated if anyone wants to come down, it is a fun day as long as weather permits. He continued they are working on Tangled Up In Brew and hope to have more information at the next meeting.

Resolution No. 7-18-2024: “That this meeting of the City Council does hereby adjourn.”

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