

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
5 PM – AUGUST 20, 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 Keith Almond, Ministerial Association

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stuart Adams, Hill Top Cemetery cleanup founder. Mr. Adams announced there is now a Board of Directors formed for the Hill Top Cemetery. He added they are finishing their By-Laws and gave names of the board. He stated they will apply for their EIN Number and reapply for a 5013C so we can officially take over the cemetery. He stated September 14th they have a volunteer day. He thanked John Ruggieri, Sr. for his machine work. Mr. Adams stated there was a donation of \$280,000 towards the maintenance of Hillgrove Cemetery when she passed away. He updated council of the progress of the cemetery.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Mr. Adams for all he is doing for the cemetery. He added with the 5013C, people can now donate and it will be tax deductible. He stated the guys at Public Works and Connellsville Township Supervisors will help and to keep them in the loop.

Bonnie Henry, Porter Theatre Film Festival. Ms. Henry stated the screen at the Porter Theatre is now installed. She stated September 7th is the Porter Film Festival. She described what all is going on with the Porter Theatre.

Mayor Lincoln asked where people can buy tickets.

Ms. Henry answered Community Ministries and Mary Ann Bauer have tickets to sell.

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

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

Mayor Lincoln requested Mr. Korba make five copies of his report and give to city council.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moose Lodge #16, Heather Wurst, request to use city parking lot and spaces, August 25th for a club picnic

Resolution No. 8-1-2024: "To permit the Connellsville Moose Lodge 16 to use the top half of the City parking lot adjacent to the rear of the Moose Building on Sunday, August 25, 2024 from 12 PM to 6 PM for their Family Picnic; further permitting use of items listed on the Utilization Form and parking lot to be blocked off for the duration of the event."

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.

Polish Club, Jay Fox, III, request to close the alley by the Public Works garage, September 8th and 14th for two events

Resolution No. 8-2-2024: “To grant the Connellsville Polish Club permission to use the alley between the Polish Club and the Public Works garage to hold separate events; the first event to be on September 8, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM for a club function and the second event to be on September 14, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM for a Hot Dog Eating Contest.”

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. 8-3-2024: “To accept the minutes from the July 16, 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. 8-4-2024: “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 by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln asked Chief Hammerle to explain the back-up system that city council will be voting on.

Chief Hammerle explained the current back-up system is full and it is a three-month contract which expires this month. He added they need to upgrade to a larger capacity and noted it is a necessity. He explained the price of what they need is \$76,000 and he negotiated with the people getting them down to \$34,960 which is a 54% deduction. Chief Hammerle informed city council the system they need is the same system that saved them when they had a security invasion. He noted it is a four-year contract and is needed.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned if people pass-out from drugs like DUI's, "are they cited, too"?

Chief Hammerle answered they charge both driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of drugs.

CDBG and CV Programs Report

PROCLAMATION: Edwin S. Porter Day, September 6, 2024

Mayor Lincoln stated the next resolution is due to him accepting a position with another law enforcement agency.

Resolution No. 8-5-2024: "To accept the resignation of Cody Ward from the Connellsville Police Department retroactive August 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.

Mayor Lincoln stated the City is accepting application for a Patrolman and you can pickup applications at City Hall until the 30th of August.

Resolution No. 8-6-2024: "To approve the Five-Year (5) Plan submitted by the Connellsville Housing Authority for the years of 2024-2028; further authorizing the Mayor to complete and sign the HUD Certification Form 50077-SL on behalf of the City of Connellsville."

Mayor Lincoln read what the Connellsville Housing Authority's five-year plan is along with their goals and objectives.

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. 8-7-2024: "To place out for bid the City of Connellsville Lower West Side Comprehensive Plan with funding to be paid from multiple sources including an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant, a Statewide Local Shares Account Grant and the City's General Fund."

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.

City Clerk Ohler stated the statewide LSA Grant the City received a couple years ago, they are using that as a match for the Appalachian Grant. He added that environmental plans on the lower west side, 1st through 7th Street, will be taken care of to help with the future development and parking design.

Resolution No. 8-8-2024: “To approve recreational upgrades to Woodruff Park and Pinnacle Park as the City of Connellsville's 2024 CDBG Project, along with approval of the 3-Year CDBG Plan for 2024, 2025 and 2026.”

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. 8-9-2024: “To purchase a Barracuda Backup Server Appliance 690, and a 4-year subscription for updates, replacement, and Unlimited Cloud Storage for a price of \$34,960.13; money to be taken out of the Special Investigations Account.”

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. 8-10-2024: “To grant the City Clerk permission to apply for a Statewide Local Share Account Grant on behalf of the City for the 2024 application cycle.”

City Clerk Ohler stated this would purchase computers throughout the entire building, including the police and offices upstairs along with upgrade in the police department.

Chief Hammerle stated that is the laptops in the cars, car radios, the radios the police all have that are all out dated and additional car cameras to equip all the police cars.

City Clerk Ohler stated for the upstairs it would be new computers, servers, and an iPad for the Code Officer, which would allow council to read his reports. There will also be cameras around the building.

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. 8-11-2024: “To approve a new Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Connellsville and the Connellsville Police Officers Association starting January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2027.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Councilwoman Tiberio and City Clerk Ohler and Captain Hominsky and Det. Patton and Corporal Garlick for all the meetings. He added he feels it is fair for both sides.

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. 8-12-2024: “To approve to the Employee Policy and Procedure Manual and Standard Operating Procedure Manual, a “Postage Stamp Policy” to assist officials, employees, and board members with all outgoing mailings.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked Shelley for taking on the task of getting the machine back to the company. He noted she managed to get money back from the company and doing her due diligence.

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 for August and September:

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

August 24th, New Haven Hose Firemen’s Festival, 5 PM is the parade

August 24th, Central Fellowship Church, Community Lunch, Free, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

August 25th, New Haven Hose Car Show, Leisenring to West Crawford on S 7th St, 11 AM – 5 PM

August 26th, Christian Church, 212 S Pittsburgh Street, Community Lunch, 11:30 AM – 1 PM

August 29th, September 12th & 26th, October 3rd, Farmers Market, 5 PM – 8 PM

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

September 5th and 6th, McDonalds will donate 20% of your order to Connellsville Area Community Ministries when you download their app and order on-line

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

September 28th, Braddock’s Fish Club, Mentored Youth Fishing Day, Yough Park

October 5th, Tangled Up In Brew

October 5th, McPoyle Run Walk Bike

COUNCILMAN KEEDY:

Councilman Keedy has no items to discuss

COUNCILMAN ADDIS:

Health Officer's Report
Fayette EMS Report
New Haven Hose Report

Resolution No. 8-13-2024: "To accept the resignation of Jeff Peterson from the Connellsville Board of Health effective immediately."

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 thanked Mr. Peterson for his time on the board and announced there is now an opening on the Board of Health and added they meet once a month. He asked that anyone interested to submit a letter to the City Clerk at connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com

Resolution No. 8-14-2024: "To appoint Bill Whetzel as a temporary, part time Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Connellsville for a term of 30 days, at a rate of \$25.00 an hour on an as needed basis, with money to be taken from line item 413.110."

Mayor Lincoln noted he is happy the City has this in place as a backup and thanked Mr. Whetzel for agreeing to be the backup.

City Clerk Ohler stated the Chief and police are willing to step up and help as well.

Chief Hammerle added calls can be sent to them and they will follow up on them.

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 stated there is no Health Officer's Report and he will have two reports next month. He noted that New Haven's Report is not in the packets either.

Councilman Addis stated Chief Adabato sent Fayette EMS's Report.

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Resolution No. 8-15-2024: "To grant permission to the Connellsville Chamber of Commerce to utilize the entire property at Yough Park on November 23, 2024 for Christmas in the Park; further authorizing use of trash cans and electricity as requested 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.

Resolution No. 8-16-2024: “To grant permission to the Diversity and Inclusion Board to utilize the entire property at Yough Park on June 21, 2025 for their Juneteenth Celebration; further authorizing use of 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.

Councilman Topper stated by the next City Council Meeting, they should have the Tangled Up In Brew Tickets available. He added the applications for brewers are available on the Rec Board’s Facebook Page or call City Hall and give your information.

COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:

Public Works Report

Councilwoman Tiberio asked the residents when they are evaluating their yard, please check your sidewalks and see if they need swept or if there are unsightly weeds growing in the sidewalk.

Mayor Lincoln added it is the property owner’s responsibility to care for the sidewalks. Councilwoman Tiberio agreed.

Resolution No. 8-17-2024: “To advertise for the position of Laborer for the Connellsville Public Works Department; salary dictated by current Union Contract with money to be taken from line item 430.144; Applications will be due 4:00 pm on September 6, 2024 in the City Clerk's Office.”

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. 8-18-2024: “To place out for bid tree removal, deadwood pruning and stump removal for the initial phase of hazardous tree mitigation for the IRA Urban Forestry Grant. Costs to be paid through the grant.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned if this will be all the city trees.

City Clerk Ohler answered they went through the entire city and came up with 18 trees that are in a hazardous situation to the city and that is why they are going. He continued stating the next round will be the pruning the trees. He explained the qualification you need to have to prune is much higher than taking a tree down, so it will be a separate bid.

Mayor Lincoln questioned the trees on 119 and Pittsburgh Street.

City Clerk Ohler stated he will have to look on the list to answer that question. He explained that he, Paul Whipkey and Davey's Tree has been meeting weekly.

Mayor Lincoln questioned if there is a tree in front of someone's home, will the owner be contacted rather than they take it down.

City Clerk Ohler answered they will contact the owner.

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 thanked Jimmy Bigam, Bill Bukovac and Clint Richter for doing all the work in the City. He acknowledged that three guys taking care of the entire city has been tough. Mayor Lincoln stated they were lucky there was summer workers that will filling in the void a lot. He continued that by hiring another worker they will have a fourth person since one of the workers is off on medical leave until early next year. Mayor Lincoln stated the Public Works men are coming to work everyday and doing the best they can with the resources they have.

Councilman Topper announced South Pittsburgh Street is almost done.

Resolution No. 8-19-2024: "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.