

Connellsville City Council MINUTES
5 PM – APRIL 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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. Also attending was City Clerk Ohler and Solicitor Witt.

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

The meeting began with a Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING: ARI HOLDINGS, LLC, TO VACATE A PORTION OF AN UNNAMED TWENTY-FOOT ALLEY EXTENDING BETWEEN NORTH THIRD STREET AND NORTH FOURTH STREET

There was no public comment, therefore the public hearing ended.

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by City Treasurer, Charles Matthews

Treasurer Matthews noted they are down on the taxes, year to date, from last year. He noted there are two weeks left for the discount period.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rebecca Petrone, City Church Taskforce, Anti-human Trafficking Walk, May 25, 2024 (no road closures)

Resolution No. 4-1-2024: "To grant the City Church of Connellsville permission to hold a walk on the sidewalks designated within their letter, to show support for Anti-Human Trafficking on May 25, 2024, 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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Paul Whipkey, Shade Tree Commission, Request for use of Council Chambers for training

Resolution No. 4-2-2024: "To grant permission to the Shade Tree Commission to hold training in City Council Chambers on May 18, 2024 from 9 AM until 4 PM."

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 thanked Paul Whipkey and the Shade Tree Commission. He added the grant is huge for the City and having volunteers help with the city trees would be great for the city. He noted Public Works only has five employees and they cannot keep up with all of the trees.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Resolution No. 4-3-2024: “To accept the minutes from the March 19, 2024 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. 4-4-2024: “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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

Mayor Lincoln permitted a gentleman in the audience to speak after signing the Sign In Sheet.

Michael Hart stated he is starting a new service called Local Waters Fishing Guide Service. He explained his service and what he will be doing.

Mayor Lincoln suggested Mr. Hart contact the hotel since that would be a service they could offer. He also suggested he contact Braddock’s Fish Club.

MAYOR LINCOLN:

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Mayor Lincoln questioned how the body cams are working out.

Hammerle replied the cams are working out great. He noted he caught a woman lying about three of the officers since he was able to review the camera footage and saw that she was lying.

Hammerle announced the homeless situation is starting to pickup in different places throughout the City. He added they are usually not from the state of PA.

Hammerle then discussed the traffic on Pittsburgh Street, noting it will continue and they are doing the best that they can.

Mayor Lincoln discussed the no left turn at the beginning of North Pittsburgh Street.

Hammerle stated it is all of Pittsburgh Street and people need to be courteous to one another.

Mayor Lincoln asked Chief Hammerle to discuss his recommendation for the new Police Secretary.

Hammerle answered three people applied and they interviewed two people. He stated he was impressed by both interviews and it was a very difficult decision to make. Hammerle added that the application he gave Mayor Lincoln is his choice out of the two candidates because she brings more to the table and has five years' experience as a Police Secretary at Saltlick City. He noted she is very efficient with office skills and he feels that she will work out very well.

Resolution No. 4-5-2024: "To hire Dawn Behunin for the position of Police Secretary with a start date of May 1, 2024; Salary to be \$30,000.00 with funds to be taken from line item 410.143."

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.

CDBG and CV Programs Report

Mayor Lincoln asked Kerry Bell if the Recreation Board presented Woodruff Park to the Redevelopment Authority at last night's meeting.

Kerry Bell stated they would like to see upgrades to the restrooms, dug outs and other items.

Mayor Lincoln questioned when Pinnacle Playground will be done.

City Clerk Ohler answered that is a 2025 project.

Mayor Lincoln added he informed Highlands that will be a great park for their Autism School to utilize.

Resolution No. 4-6-2024: "To close Water Street from Fairview Avenue to West Peach Street starting at 8 PM until 11 PM for Fireworks on July 6, 2024; pending approval from the Police Chief and Fire Chief."

Mayor Lincoln added this is temporary and one time, noting it will be back to normal next year.

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 4-7-2024: “To place out for bid the "Tree Inventory" to be conducted throughout the City as the first phase of the USDA Forestry Grant; Bid specs will be available at Connellsville City Hall, 110 North Arch Street, Connellsville, PA 15425 and be received until 4 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and be opened at the 5 PM City Council Meeting later that day; Money will be reimbursed through the grant.”

Mayor Lincoln questioned what kind of work will the people bidding on this be doing?

City Clerk Ohler answered basically labeling the trees and the conditions at city parks and city right of ways and tree lines streets and all city properties.

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. 4-8-2024: “WHEREAS, CONNELLSVILLE CITY desires to undertake the project, "Youghiogheny River Conservation Plan: Part 2 Connellsville to McKeesport"; and WHEREAS, the applicant desires to receive from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources a grant for the purpose of carrying out this project; and WHEREAS, the application package includes a document entitled Terms and Conditions of Grant and WHEREAS, the applicant understands that the contents of the document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant," including appendices referred to therein, will become the terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement between the applicant and the Department if the applicant is awarded a grant; and NOW THEREFORE, it is resolved that:

1. The grant application may be electronically signed on behalf of the applicant by "Greg Lincoln" who, at the time of signing, has a TITLE of "Mayor" and the email address of "gllinc@yahoo.com".
2. If this Official signed the Grant Application Electronic Authorization prior to the passage of this Resolution, this grant of authority applies retroactively to the date of signing.
3. If the applicant is awarded a grant, the Grant Application Electronic Authorization, signed by the above Official, will become the applicant/grantees executed signature page for the Grant Agreement, and the applicant/grantee will be bound by the Grant Agreement.
4. Any amendment to the Grant Agreement may be signed on behalf of the grantee by the Official who, at the time of signing of the amendment, has the "TITLE" specified in paragraph 1 and the grantee will be bound by the amendment.”

City Clerk Ohler stated this is the Mountain Watershed Comprehensive Plan and phase 1 was done from Saltlick down to the City. He continued this would be from the City down to McKeesport. He stated this will allow the Mountain Watershed to go after additional funding with this plan.

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. 4-9-2024: “To authorize and direct the preparation of quitclaim deed(s) for the property(s) identified on Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.”

Solicitor Witt stated the goal is to protect the City's interest in various properties. He noted this is located outside of the City at the Zack Connellsville grave. He continued the City, at one point, received the deed for that property and now it is no where to be found. Solicitor Witt stated they are now showing the City has some interest in that property.

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:

April 20th, Connellsville Recreation Board's City clean-up

April 27th, Connellsville Recreation Board's Tangled Up in Vines, East Side Fire Hall, 12 PM – 4 PM, \$20

May 2nd, National Day Of Prayer, Lion's Square at Noon

May 4th, Neon Nights 5K Run/Walk, After April 20th fee \$30. Packet pickup May 3rd & 4th at NHH

May 4th, Community Yard Sales, Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500, \$5 per spot on map

May 4th, New Haven Hose's hoagie sales

May 11th, Curbside Cleanup Day, Items are to be placed at curb the night before pickup

May 18th, Train Day Tour, For a list of places to tour for free call FC Cultural Trust, 724-216-4518

May 25th, McPoyle Kickball Tournament at McPoyle Field, information available soon

May 27th, Memorial Day Service, Veteran's Plaza, 11 AM

May 31st – June 2nd, Yough River Rally. Visit Facebook: The Yough River Rally for schedule of events

Farmer's Markets begins June 6th at Yough River Park. You can contact the Chamber at 724-628-5500

June 22nd, 2nd Annual C.P.O.A. Golf Outing, Pleasant Valley Golf Club, \$110/Golfer, Dinner, Raffles, prizes, 50/50, Lunch, Register 8 AM, Start 9 AM. Cutoff date: June 1st

June 8th, Pride in the Park, Yough Park, 11 AM, visit: Facebook: Connellsville Diversity & Inclusion Board

June 15th, Juneteenth Celebration, North Arch Street, 11 AM, visit: Facebook: Connellsville Diversity & Inclusion Board

June 17th – July 18th, PE In the Park, East Park, visit: healthpekids@gmail.com or 724-433-9608 – Jason

Mayor Lincoln stated they partnered with the Connellsville Recreation Board and lowered the cost to \$35/child

June 23rd, Friends Day, East Park, Connellsville Recreation Board, Information available soon

June 29th – 30th, Braddock's Crossing, Yough River Park, Visit Facebook: Connellsville Area Historical Society for schedule of events

KEEDY:

Resolution No. 4-10-2024: "To donate \$80 to New Haven Hose Volunteer Fire Department for two American Flags to be displayed at City Hall on eight holidays. Money to be taken from line item 409.266."

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
New Haven Hose Report
Fayette EMS Report

Burning days: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1 PM – 9 PM, Residents are not permitted to burn recycling, waste, and garbage

Grass: Residents are not permitted to allow grass to grow higher than 12 inches

Trash: Residents are required to have a trash can with a tight-fitting lid per City Ordinance #1556

Mayor Lincoln thanked New Haven Hose, noting there was another flooding. He stated New Haven Hose was out at 7 AM and worked all through that evening pumping out basements. Mayor Lincoln stated this is what New Haven volunteers do and they are not getting paid. He thanked them for all their work.

Mayor Lincoln also thanked the Public Works Department, noting they took care of Yough Park. He noted they closed streets, moved things to higher ground and were extremely busy and he thanked them.

Mayor Lincoln thanked the Police Department and everyone's willingness to serve and help in these situations.

Councilman Addis stated when you come upon a saw horse at the end of the street, "Please do not drive around it. You will put multiple people in danger. It is much appreciated as a fellow fireman in the City

that you do not drive around the barriers. It is not good for you; it is not good for your vehicle and it is not good for the people that have to come get you.”

COUNCILMAN TOPPER:

Resolution No. 4-11-2024: “To grant permission to MAC-ONE HOLDINGS, LLC to have access of a parking space behind 109 South Pittsburgh Street, for installation of a fire escape at the listed property.”

Mayor Lincoln thanked MAC-ONE HOLDINGS, LLC for purchasing the building and investing in the City.

City Council discussed ADA compliance.

Solicitor Witt answered because each property is very particular and plans are different, each person would need to submit their plans.

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. 4-12-2024: “To allow for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry in conjunction with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to perform an eight week “My Work Program” for the City of Connellsville at no cost to the City; Liability Insurance and supervision to be provided through the program.”

Councilman Topper stated the program is a good one and Councilwoman Tiberio worked with the kids. He noted they did a lot of work and he is excited to get them back.

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. 4-13-2024: “To accept quotes for additional of electrical receptacles for vendors at Yough Park with costs to be shared between the Connellsville Recreation Board and the General Braddock’s Fish Club.”

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 announced the Public Works Department has been putting up the “Park Sponsor Signs.” He thanked them for putting them in the parks, the sponsors for 2024 and Blaine Brooks for the work he did on the signs. He noted there are 11 City parks and appreciates the support.

Mayor Lincoln added they still need a sponsor for Pinnacle Park. He stated if someone wants to support the park, call Vernon Ohler, and he will give you the cost. Mayor Lincoln stated your name will be on the sign and put in the park. He added the money goes into the park.

COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:

Public Works Report

Resolution No. 4-14-2024: “To adopt Bill No. 1 of 2024: An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, approving the vacation of a portion of an unnamed twenty-foot alley located in the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette.

WHEREAS, ARI Holdings, LLC, Kevin Leonard, Casey Leonard, and Barcine Graft have petitioned and requested that a portion of an unnamed twenty-foot alley abutting their properties identified as Tax Parcel Nos. 05-06-0524 an 05-06-0525;

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

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

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the City Council on the 16th day of April, 2024; and

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

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

SECTION 1: That the following described portion of an unnamed twenty-foot alley is hereby vacated, except as may be expressly provided in this Ordinance:

Approximately one hundred sixty-five (165) feet of said unnamed twenty-foot alley, being that existing, unopened, and unvacated portion of an unnamed alley extending westwardly from the western right of way line of North Third Street for approximately one hundred sixty-five (165) feet, with a width of twenty (20) feet, to the eastern right of way line of North Fourth Street as shown on Exhibit A attached hereto.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Lincoln questioned where exactly this is located.

City Clerk Ohler answered between 3rd and 4th Streets.

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. 4-15-2024: “To hire Carter Wilson and Gavin McPoyle as a seasonal worker for the Public Works Department effective May 1, 2024; money to be 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. 4-16-2024: “To open bids received for the 2024 Paving Project.”

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.

Bids were opened as follows:

Morgan Excavating, LP, \$122,156.25

Derry Construction Co., Inc., \$123,500.25

Tresco Paving Corp., \$114,388.00

El Grande Industries, Inc., \$124,540.00

Nagy Construction & Asphalt Paving, \$118,837.30

Redstone Excavating, LLC, \$110, 833.75

John D. Caruso, Inc., \$130,662.00

Mayor Lincoln questioned Solicitor Witt as to whether or not they have to vote this evening on the bid.

Solicitor Witt replied they do not have to vote this evening. The bidders must honor their bids for up to sixty days. He added they can make a decision at next month's meeting.

Mayor Lincoln stated he would like to evaluate this more, if council is on board with that.

Councilwoman Tiberio made a motion to table the bids for further discussion. Councilman Keedy seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the resolution was tabled.

TABLED: Resolution No. -2024: "To accept the bid of _____ in the amount of \$_____ for the 2024 Paving Project; pending review and approval of City Solicitor and City Engineer."

Resolution No. 4-17-2024: "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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.