

**Connellsville City Council MINUTES**  
**5 PM – JUNE 18, 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:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Susan Lewis, discussed scanning records dating back from when the city began.

Mayor Lincoln questioned Solicitor Witt if this was permissible.

Solicitor Witt replied as long as she only scans public documents and they do not leave City Hall.

Mayor Lincoln thanked Ms. Lewis for her willingness to scan the documents.

Barry Craig, CACM Silent Film Festival. Mr. Craig thanked City Council for all of their support to the ministries over the years and noted they are celebrating 50 years this year. He asked City Council for their support on an event they have planned on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. He stated this will be an over 21 event, with a band with only parking maybe being an issue. He discussed planned upgrades to the Porter Theatre.

Mayor Lincoln offered to make the City's golf cart available to shuttle people to the Community Center.

Mr. Craig thanked Mayor Lincoln and City Council.

Sharon Rendine gave an update on the Yough River Rally noting it was a success and thanked City Council for their event. She requested to change the dates to the second week in June for 2025.

Mayor Lincoln questioned the change.

Sharon Rendine stated the first week overlaps with graduation.

Mayor Lincoln questioned the plan of action for all of the parking when the land they are using gets developed. He notified Rendine that Councilwoman Tiberio will be reading a resolution to temporarily adjust traffic patterns during next years rally. He stressed that there will be developments in that area next year and the parking will be limited.

Sharon Rendine noted they are aware of the parking and discussing it. She stated they will be shuttled.

Mayor Lincoln questioned where will they be shuttled from. He added he wants to have discussions well in advance of next year.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned if Pride in the Park was that weekend.

Mayor Lincoln stated that is the weekend that they use it.

Councilman Topper stated they need it on the schedule now since the park gets reserved quickly in the summer.

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:** Given by Charle Matthews, Treasurer

Treasurer Matthews discussed the allowance for first responders. He noted a letter is sent to them every year (to those who qualify for the allowance). He requested council put on that letter for next year to bring the letter in when they come to pay their taxes. He stated it gets busy during discount and when they pay their taxes, the girls do not get a chance to check the list. He added if they bring the letter in with them, he can get the rebates out to them faster.

Treasurer Matthews stated there are only 12 more days to pay taxes at face value. He noted after that there is a penalty.

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

Controller Korba stated his report is different, noting it is "current assets".

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Resolution No. 6-1-2024:** "To accept the minutes from the May 21, 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. 6-2-2024:** "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, Topper and Tiberio and Mayor Lincoln. The majority of the votes being affirmative, the resolution was adopted.

## **MAYOR LINCOLN:**

Police Department Report by Chief Hammerle

Chief Hammerle informed City Council the police force is out and dealing with the traffic by handing out citations and enforcing the law. He then asked the public to be more considerate of each other and keep the intersections open and traffic flowing.

Chief Hammerle stated he would like to implement the Juvenile in Custody Policy into the Policy Manual. He noted it is something recommended by the State of Pennsylvania. He added that he sent it to the City Solicitor to review and feels he is ok with it. He added this is what the police force does not, but it is not in their policy.

Councilwoman Tiberio questioned what happens if the parents do not show up for over six hours.

Chief Hammerle answered they have to call CYS.

Mayor Lincoln reminded residents that there is a curfew in the City. He announced it is 10 PM Sunday through Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday.

CDBG and CV Programs Report

Mayor Lincoln stated Troy Michael Smith reached out to him stating this is the first time an American won the Mr. Gay World. Mayor Lincoln stated he informed him council is willing to recognize that fact and would like to recognize him in June for Pride Month. He added Troy is not here to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lincoln presented the proclamation to Troy Michael Smith's mother.

**PROCLAMATION:** Troy Michael Smith LGBTQ Suicide Prevention Day – October 27, 2024

**Resolution No. 6-3-2024:** "To enter into a Winter Maintenance Services Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for all streets listed on Contract Exhibit A and also authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the M-945 PennDOT Form on behalf of the City of Connellsville."

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. 6-4-2024:** "To submit a letter of request for an extension to the Office of the Budget on a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant (RACP) for the Micro Resort development that was submitted by AriRory Enterprises LTD."

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. 6-5-2024:** “To permit Susan Joy Lewis to scan minutes of the City of Connellsville’s City Council Minutes dating from 1806 into a CZUR ET16 Plus Scanner; scanning to be done at City Hall with property not leaving the premises; all work to be done at no cost to the City of Connellsville.”

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. 6-6-2024:** “To approve the Juvenile in Custody Policy and add to the Police Policy and Procedure Manual.”

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 for June and July:**

Mayor Lincoln stated there are shirts left from the Juneteenth celebration and they are \$15 and available at City Hall.

The Connellsville Area School District Summer Lunch program June 24<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup>; meals will be served 11:30 AM to 1 PM, Mondays – Friday, free for youth, adults pay \$4.75

Lions Square Concerts, 7 PM – 9 PM: June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 90’s Country Outlaws, June 30<sup>th</sup>, Shelly McCombio Duo

June 20<sup>th</sup>, Farmer’s Market/Kid Fest, Yough Park, 5 PM – 8 PM, Chamber of Commerce, 724-628-5500

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friends Day by the Connellsville Recreation Board, East Park, 1 PM – 4 PM, Life skill students and the community, RSVP by text: 724-880-0139

June 28<sup>th</sup>, Life of Sarah B. Cochran, Connellsville, Somerset Historic P&LE Train Station, A catered lunch will be served at noon followed by a lecture at 1:00 PM, \$35/ per person includes dinner, RSVP Karen Hechler 724-628-5344

June 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, Braddock’s Crossing, Yough River Park, Visit Facebook: Connellsville Area Historical Society for schedule of events, Crossing each day at 1 PM, Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 12 PM – 5 PM

July 6<sup>th</sup>, Red White, and Boom Festival, begins 3 PM, Fireworks 9:45 PM, downtown area

July 10<sup>th</sup>, John Woodruff Race, 7 PM, Falcon Stadium

July 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, St. Rita's Street Fair, 5:30 PM – 10 PM

July 13<sup>th</sup>, Albright UMC Craft/Vendor show, 9 AM – 4 PM

July 13<sup>th</sup>, Special Needs Prom, C'ville Township Firehall, 5 PM – 9 PM, Call Rita: 724-880-8281

July 20<sup>th</sup>, Adopt a Block Party, Yough Park, 1 PM

July 27<sup>th</sup>, Croquet Tournament, East Park, Facebook: Connellsville Rec Board for information

#### **COUNCILMAN KEEDY:**

**Resolution No. 6-7-2024:** "To make a one-time donation to Fayette EMS of \$7,500; money to be taken from line item 489.000."

Councilwoman Tiberio stated from everything she gathered from the non-profit side that is public knowledge, it is a very stellar operation. She added she does not see a need from the Fayette EMS side. She noted she supports them privately but does not see the need for using city funds and feels those funds should be used to give the employees a fair wage.

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

Rick Adabato stated that Councilwoman Tiberio was correct in her assessment that Fayette EMS was fiscally sound.

Councilman Keedy stated Fayette EMS is a huge asset to the community. He thanked Councilwoman Tiberio for the research before council makes this decision. He noted the financial end should not fall on the city, but on the State of Pennsylvania. He suggested people go to the legislators and tell them they need to support them. Councilman Keedy noted as Mayor Lincoln stated it the best, that if the fireworks tax was used the way it was meant to be, then none of the fire departments would be in the position they are in today. He added it is time for them to put the money where their mouth is. He noted that he looked at the numbers and they have excess money in interest and that is why he is not opposed to making the donation.

Mayor Lincoln noted they are looking to increase that tax another 6%. He added the police and fire departments are the ones who get put through the ringer during fireworks and they cannot get that money.

Councilman Topper added the best way for everyone to deal with this is through subscriptions. He asked the community to please pay attention to subscriptions and read it to see its value.

Councilman Keedy stated there will be an audit committee meeting next month. He added then hopefully they can have the audit done from last year.

**COUNCILMAN ADDIS:**

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

Rick Adobato gave Fayette EMS's Report. He asked residents to please check in on their neighbors during this heat.

Councilman Addis noted under the advisory of the Fire Chief, the City is under a Fire Ban. He added residents should stay hydrated and indoors if you can.

**Resolution No. 6-8-2024:** "To introduce Bill No. 2 of 2024: 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 questioned the changes to the ordinance.

Solicitor Witt stated the primary changes are that the current ordinance stated to renew it every five years. The new ordinance will remain on the books.

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:**

Councilman Topper stated there were openings on the Recreation Board and they received a few applicants who came to the Recreation Board Meeting. He added you do not have to be a voting member to help the board out, added you can work one event or more.

**Resolution No. 6-9-2024:** “To appoint Tim DeMott to the Recreation Board effective immediately with a term to expire January 1, 2028.”

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. 6-10-2024:** “To appoint Shaun Basinger to the Recreation Board effective immediately with a term to expire January 1, 2027.”

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 stated he believes there are eight permitted on the Recreation Board. He stated PE In The Park is up and running Epic stepped in as well as the Recreation Board to be a financial contributor to the event to help eliminate the cost for the kids. He noted if people cannot afford it, there is information on the Rec Board’s and PE In The Park’s Facebook page to help with the cost.

Councilman Topper reminded residents to clean up after themselves in the parks and smoking is not permitted.

Mayor Lincoln stated they did get the pole dropped at Washington Park and the order for electric was put in. He noted the camera guy will give a quote so the cameras can be ordered so there will be order in that park with new lighting installed. He added Twelfth Street Park is coming along and the pavilion is being built now with the sidewalks in. He stated he hopes in August to have a dedication for the park.

## **COUNCILWOMAN TIBERIO:**

Public Works Report

**Resolution No. 6-11-2024:** “To retroactively approve the Traffic Committee’s recommendation for making North 7th Street and North 6th Street temporary one-way streets to assist with traffic flow during the river rally.”

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 the Police Auxiliary for working tirelessly during that weekend doing traffic control. He added they did a fantastic job.

Mayor Lincoln added they are working on parking at East Park.

City Clerk Ohler stated Councilwoman Tiberio wanted to discuss paving. He stated Redstone had the paving done in a week or two and did a good job.

Mayor Lincoln added he is hopeful that South Pittsburgh Street will be paved by the end of summer. He stated there will be drainage in the downtown by Morgan and it will be huge.

Councilwoman Tiberio added PennDOT is coming Friday regarding Wills Road wall project.

**Resolution No. 6-12-2024:** "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.