



**Luzerne County Council
February 23, 2021 Voting Session
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes**

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on February 23, 2021, at 6:01PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.
Harry Haas
Linda McClosky Houck
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Chris Perry
Kendra M. Radle
Sheila Saidman, Esq.
Robert Schnee
Stephen J. Urban
Matthew Vough

Also Present

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager
Romilda P. Crocamo, Chief County Solicitor
Vito DeLuca, Esq.
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Mr. McGinley stated that Mr. Pedri requested Council remove items 8 & 9. Items 8 & 9 were removed as there were no objections.

Mr. Griffith requested item 4 be removed as it was not properly introduced and to have the Executive Session moved after the Work Session. Mr. McGinley stated the Executive Session would be addressed after the Voting Session. Mr. McGinley asked if there was anyone else who would like item 4 removed. Ms. Houck would like it removed. Attorney Crocamo responded regarding the introduction and read a transcript from the February 9th Voting Session. Mr. McGinley noted there was no one else other than Mr. Griffith and Ms. Houck (2-9) item 4 will remain on the agenda.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Radle

Motions

Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the requirement a majority of those participating in the meeting must be physically present by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the conduct of public meetings to the extent that the current format is inconsistent with the term of the State's Emergency Declaration

by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Nay by Mr. Griffith

Motion Passed (10-1)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or TEAMS. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda. VERBAL comments, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Community Development ordinance, non-profit disclosures and appointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding ABC interview questions and Tax Collectors.

Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding the LCTA Board life insurance matter.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the ordinance amending the Administrative Code.

1. Motion to adopt minutes of the February 09, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Ms. Houck stated she took exception to the section in the minutes headed by “Ordinances that are automatically introduced” and requested it be on record.

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

The January 26, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

None

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Reserve)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Debt Service)

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Motion to postpone ordinance until next meeting by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. Haas

Motion Passed (10-1)

Ordinance is Postponed

4. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Community Development)

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Motion to amend the ordinance and replace “COVID-19” with “Emergency Rental Assistance” by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote to Amend Ordinance:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt Ordinance:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Ordinance is Adopted

5. Motion to introduce ordinance Adopting the Luzerne County Zoning Ordinance of 2021 and the Luzerne County Zoning Map of 2021

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

6. Motion to adopt resolution approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Luzerne County and the Luzerne County Detectives' Association

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) No by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion to Passed (9-2)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution Entering into a Lease for a Portion of Land at the Luzerne County Annex for use by the Flower Tent

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

REMOVED ITEM

~~8. Introduction of ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Coroner)~~

REMOVED ITEM

~~9. Introduction of ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Elections)~~

10. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Administrative Code at Section 2.10 – Luzerne County Authorities, Boards and Commissions

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

After discussion, Ms. Houck withdrew her second.

Second: Mr. Haas

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Mr. Schnee and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (4-7)

Ordinance Failed

11. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Board of Elections (Tait)

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

12. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Board of Elections (Ouellette)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

13. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

13a. Luzerne County Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission

(1) Democrat term ending 12/31/2024 and (1) Republican to complete a term ending 12/31/21

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Houck

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Ms. Houck nominated: Diane Dreier (Democrat)

Second: Mr. Griffith

Ms. McDermott nominated: Thomas Mosca

Second: Ms. Saidman

Motion to Close Nominations by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Diane Dreier, a Democrat, to the Luzerne County Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Thomas Mosca, a Republican, to the Luzerne County Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

13b. Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission

(1) term ending 12/31/2023

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Ms. Houck nominated: Eugene Wallace

Second: Mr. Griffith

Ms. Saidman nominated: John McCarthy

Second: Mr. Schnee

Ms. Houck and Mr. Griffith both withdrew their motions as Eugene Wallace was not eligible for the position type open (Business or Industry).

Motion to Close Nominations by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution appointing John McCarthy to the Luzerne County Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

13c.Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board (1) term ending 12/31/2023

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Schnee nominated: William Harris

Second: Ms. McDermott

Motion to Close Nominations by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution appointing William Harris to the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or TEAMS. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda. VERBAL comments, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Board Member compensation, Bridge Tolling on I-80 and the \$5.00 Fee.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding the Detectives Contract, Overtime for attending Council meetings and Voting Machine Debt Service.

Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding the Detectives Contract.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the Charter Section 209B7, Children & Youth Meetings and Minutes, Council laptops with cameras and the Executive Session.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding changing things.

Attorney DeLuca and Attorney Crocamo responded to Mr. Shiner's comments regarding Children & Youth.

Mr. Griffith commented regarding Children & Youth and the LCTA.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Lawrence
Clerk of Council

* Audio of this meeting can be found in its entirety on the County Council webpage
<http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/luzerne-county-council> or by contacting the Office of the
Clerk of Council at (570) 825-1634 or via email to sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org