



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
February 28, 2023
Council Meeting Room
Luzerne County Court House
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
AND
Video/Teleconference via ZOOM**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on February 28, 2023 at 6:06 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Lombardo.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Brian Swetz, Acting County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Absent

Kendra Radle

Attorney Skene announced prior to the meeting Council held an Executive Session concerning the person that is proposed to be the new Division Head for Corrections by Administration.

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Mr. SJ Urban would like to remove Item 6 (regarding Corrections Division Head Appointment) from the Voting Session Agenda.

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. McGinley and Mr., SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Failed (2-8)

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted

Public Comment on Agenda Items

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or ZOOM. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda.

VERBAL comments can be heard in their entirety by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding opioids.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding Item 8 (the Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board Advisor).

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Ordinance for the Whole Home Repairs Amendment.

AGENDA ITEMS – CLERK OF COUNCIL

Motion to approve minutes of the February 14, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-1)

The February 14, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Zoning Map to Re-Zone One Parcel of Property totaling 0.827 acres in Hughestown Borough from LI, Light Industrial District Zone to R-2, Two Family Residence District Zone

Motion by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt Ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Opioid Settlement)

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt Ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Election Integrity Grant)

Motion by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget For Luzerne County (Whole Home Repairs)

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (State Foreclosure Grant)

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

6. Motion to adopt resolution Confirming the Appointment of the Corrections Division Head

Motion by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. Thornton

Motion to Table by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. McGinley and Mr., SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Failed (2-8)

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Four (4) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (6-4)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Council Nominations and Appointments to:

7a. Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors (term ending 12/31/2023)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Bienias nominated: Gregory Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Mr. Wolovich nominated: Dino Galella

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Motion to Close Nominations: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. McGinley

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Gregory Wolovich to the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7b. Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Mental Health & Developmental Services Program Advisory Board (term ending 12/31/2023)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Ms. McDermott nominated: SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Stephen J Urban to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Mental Health & Developmental Services Program Advisory Board by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7c. Greater Hazleton CAN DO Board of Directors (term ending 12/31/2023)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. McGinley nominated: Chris Perry

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to Close Nominations: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Chris Perry to the Greater Hazleton CAN DO

Board of Directors by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Nominations and Appointments

Motions regarding Forty-Forty Airport Advisory Board Advisor (Council Member)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Bienias nominated: Kevin Lescavage

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Motion to Close Nominations: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

**Motion to appoint Kevin Lescavage as an Advisor to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort
Airport Advisory Board by:** Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via **EMAIL** or **ZOOM**. 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.

Beth Hartman (Hanover) commented Verbally regarding the LCCF Division Head, ethics, C&Y Directors and Brandon's Forever Home.

TJ Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding giving power back to County Council.

Diane Cowman (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the ARPA Grants, the new tentative process, caps and number of awards.

Chet Mozloom (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding ARPA Grants and Hillside Farms.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding ARPA and Booth Management.

Jamie Walsh (Ross Township) commented Verbally and distributed a Handout to Council regarding APRA Grants and distributed a spreadsheet to Council.

Amy Bezek (Edwardsville) commented Verbally and showed information to Council using her laptop regarding ARPA Grants, lowering amounts, building/project costs, inflation and showed the higher costs on her laptop to Council.

Michael Dantone (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding ARPA Grants, his application, rules and confidentiality.

Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding inflation.

Ben Herring (Duryea) commented Verbally regarding ARPA Grants, lists and cost of projects.

Devin Reese (Plymouth) commented Verbally regarding the vote for the LCCF Director.

Vivian Kreidler-Lucina (Nescopeck) commented Verbally regarding poll books and ARPA Grants.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding Act 13 money to fix roads, the ARPA list and confidentiality, and the McCarthy lease and building.

Pat Smith (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding an update/report on the Board of Elections incident.

Joseph McCabe (Laflin) commented Verbally regarding updates on the November 8th investigation.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding County roads and Federal DOT Grants for the Nanticoke and Water Street Bridges.

Vice Chair Lombardo read Public Comment Emails from:
Evelyn O’Hara-Stine (Wright Township)
Laura Pinero (Wyoming)
Mike and Cindy Brannan (Wright Township)

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 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