



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
January 10, 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 January 10, 2023 at 6:03 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Radle.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo (virtually)
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell (virtually)
Chris Perry
Kendra M. Radle
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

Attorney Skene announced that before the meeting, Council held an Executive Session concerning two litigation matters.

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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.

Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager Search Committee, applicants and the Government Study Commission.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission.

Alyssa Fusaro (Luzerne) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission.

John Cordora (Luzerne) commented Verbally regarding appointments to the Government Study Commission and the Election Cycle.

AGENDA ITEMS – CLERK OF COUNCIL

Motion to approve minutes of the January 03, 2023 Special Meeting

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Motion to amend minutes by removing Mr. Swetz as being present by: Ms. McDermott

Chair Radle confirmed the first and second with the amendment.

Vote to Approve with Amendment:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

The January 03, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes are Approved

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Luzerne County, et. al

Motion by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Appointing a Member to the Luzerne County Manager Search Committee (3 appointments)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. McGinley

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Perry nominated: Danielle Ader

Second: Mr. Bienias

Mr. Lombardo nominated: Charles Sciandra

Second: Mr. Bienias

Mr. Mitchell nominated: Dave Fusco

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Mr. Thornton nominated: Robert Fisher

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Ms. McDermott nominated: Linda Houck

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Mr. SJ Urban nominated: Harry Haas

Second: NONE

Motion fails for lack of a second.

Motion to Close Nominations: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Bienias: Fusco

Mr. Lescavage: Fusco

Mr. Lombardo: Fusco

Ms. McDermott: Ader

Mr. McGinley: Ader

Mr. Mitchell: Fusco

Mr. Perry: Ader

Ms. Radle: Fusco

Mr. Thornton: Fusco

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Ader

Mr. Wolovich: Fusco

Results:

Fusco 7

Ader 4

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Bienias: Ader

Mr. Lescavage: Ader

Mr. Lombardo: Sciandra

Ms. McDermott: Ader

Mr. McGinley: Ader

Mr. Mitchell: Sciandra

Mr. Perry: Ader

Ms. Radle: Ader

Mr. Thornton: Houck

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Houck

Mr. Wolovich: Ader

Results:

Ader 7

Houck 2

Sciandra 2

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Bienias: Sciandra
Mr. Lescavage: Houck
Mr. Lombardo: Sciandra
Ms. McDermott: Houck
Mr. McGinley: Sciandra
Mr. Mitchell: Sciandra
Mr. Perry: Sciandra
Ms. Radle: Sciandra
Mr. Thornton: Houck
Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Houck
Mr. Wolovich: Sciandra

Results:

Sciandra 7

Houck 4

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Dave Fusco to the Luzerne County Manager Search

Committee by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Danielle Ader to the Luzerne County Manager

Search Committee by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Charles Sciandra to the Luzerne County Manager

Search Committee by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell,
Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

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

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to introduce ordinance Placing a Government Study Commission Question on the May 16, 2023 Primary Municipal Election Ballot and Designating the Number of Members to Serve on Said Commission

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (4-7)

Ordinance is Introduced

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.

Amy Bezek (Edwardsville) commented Verbally regarding ARPA grants and small businesses.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding Blytheburn Road and other Luzerne County roads.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager Search Committee Timeline and the Government Study Commission.

Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding ARPA funding and his Public Comment Email regarding the same.

Jenna Casaldi (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding ARPA Grants.

Alyssa Fusaro (Luzerne) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission vote.

Diane Cowman (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the number of ARPA Applications and County Applications.

Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding election ballot supplies, voting machine security and the DA investigation.

Desiree Edwards (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding updates on the election investigation.

Chair Radle read Public Comment Emails from:
Laura Pinero
Walter & Robyn Kochan (Dallas Township)
Cindy Brannan (Wright Township)

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 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