



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
January 11, 2022  
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 11, 2022 at 6:12 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra M. Radle.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Kevin Lescavage  
John Lombardo  
Lee Ann McDermott  
Tim McGinley  
Chris Perry  
Kendra M. Radle  
Brian Thornton  
Stephen J. Urban  
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

**Also Present**

Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq., Acting County Manager (virtually)  
Shannon Crake-Lapsansky, Acting County Solicitor (virtually)  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

**Absent**

Robert Schnee

**Attorney Crake-Lapsansky commented on the Executive Session. She stated an Executive Session was held prior to the Meeting with regards to litigation in the matter of Hazzouri vs. Luzerne County.**

**Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations**

NONE

**Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

**Mr. SJ Urban would like to remove Item 1 from the Voting Session agenda.**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** None

**Motion Failed for Lack of a Second**

**Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**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.

**Theodore John Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding** the replacement for Walter Griffith and eligibility.

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** a lawyer for Council, putting the question on the ballot and the Hazzouri Lease.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the Hazzouri Lease and the ballot question.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the County Manager vacancy and a replacement for Walter Griffith's council seat.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the Hazzouri Lease and the ballot item.

**Carl Bienias (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding** the ballot question.

**Ms. Radle read Public Comment Email from:  
Linda Houck (Kingston) regarding the Hazzouri Lease.**

**Agenda Items**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the December 14, 2021 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**The December 14, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Residential Lease related to the Settlement of Litigation in the Matter of Hazzouri v. Luzerne County**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**After commentary, Mr. Thornton withdrew his Motion.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** NONE

**Motion Failed for Lack of a Second**

**2. Motion to approve resolution Providing Prior Approval for the Execution of Utility Supply Contracts**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (8-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to introduce ordinance Placing a Question on the ~~April 28, 2020~~ May 17, 2022 Primary Ballot to Amend Article VI Section 6:04 A; of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**The ballot date on the AGENDA was incorrect and Mr. McGinley stated the agenda should be amended to reflect the correct date of May 17, 2022.**

**Motion to Amend the Agenda by:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Two (2) No by Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

**Motion Passed (7-2)**

**Agenda is Amended**

**Roll Call Vote to Introduce:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Two (2) No by Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

**Motion Passed (7-2)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Blighted Property Review Committee (Citizen)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Blighted Property Review Committee (Redevelopment Authority)**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**6. Motion to adopt a resolution Declaring the Elected Position of Luzerne County Council Member Vacant Due to Election to Luzerne County Controller**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Retirement Board**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Council Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:**

**8a. Luzerne County Retirement Board**

**Motion to Open Nominations:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Brian Thornton

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Motion to Close Nominations:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Brian Thornton to the Retirement Board by:**

Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**9. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:**

**9a. Luzerne County Planning Commission (1) term ending 12/31/2025**

**Motion to Open Nominations:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. McDermott nominated:** Brian Caverly

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Motion to Close Nominations:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Brian Caverly to the Luzerne County Planning**

**Commission by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**9a. Luzerne County Zoning Board (1) term ending 12/31/2024**

**Motion to Open Nominations:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. McDermott nominated:** Leon Schuster

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion to Close Nominations:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Leon Schuster to the Luzerne County Zoning**

**Board by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

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**Chris Zomerfeld (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding** the District Attorney, the Assistant District Attorney, corruption, due process, filing papers and rights.

**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding** affordable housing, Earth Conservancy Land and the Redevelopment Authority.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** a replacement for Walter Griffith on Council, the ballot question, IT infrastructure, the West Nanticoke bridge, the West Pittston bridge, appointing a new County Manager, and the ARP funds.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** appointment to the Blighted Property Review Committee and poor housing.

**Theodore John Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding** a replacement for Walter Griffith on Council, the new County Manager, and County employee morale.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the position budget and merit raises.

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** Commissioner tax issues and being positive.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:19 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](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org)