



**Luzerne County Council**  
January 14, 2020  
Luzerne County Court House  
Council Meeting Room  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711

**Minutes**  
**January 14, 2020 Voting Session**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on January 14, 2020 at 7:15 PM. 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 (via phone)

**Also Present**

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager  
Vito DeLuca, Esq.  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley announced that prior to the Voting Session, a ceremony was held in the Rotunda for the Girls Field Hockey State Champions, Wyoming Seminary and Wyoming Valley West.

### **Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

Mr. Stephen J. Urban asked for an opinion from the Solicitor regarding his resolution that was tabled at the January 06, 2020 Reorganization Meeting. Mr. DeLuca asked for a synopsis of events and facts surrounding the motion to table. Mr. DeLuca provided an opinion that the ordinance should not have been tabled. Mr. Stephen J. Urban requested it be added to the agenda for introduction. Mr. McGinley stated it would be added as item #4.

### **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Agenda by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted**

### **Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items**

**Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke)** stated he was excited to be part of the meeting and spoke in favor of Council having a Solicitor.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton)** disagreed with Mr. Cross and Mr. Morelli regarding a Solicitor for Council. Mr. Rabo suggested Mr. Stephen J. Urban be appointed to the MHDS Board and Mr. Linde be appointed to the BPRC.

**Brian Shiner (Kingston)** thanked Mr. DeLuca for his opinion regarding tabling an ordinance. Mr. Shiner spoke in favor of putting the ordinance on the ballot.

**John Newman (Nanticoke)** stated his was not fighting the ordinance but he is fighting the process on amending the Charter with regard to Mr. Griffith's ordinance.

**Charles Olah (Kingston)** spoke about some of his concerns with how things do or don't work.

**Richard Manta (Shavertown)** commented on a Solicitor for Council and felt getting a second opinion is a good idea.

### **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **Motion to adopt minutes of the December 10, 2019 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Mr. McGinley noted the new council members were not on Council at that time and may abstain from voting.**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Four (4) Abstentions by Mr. Griffith, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (7-0) with (4) Abstentions**

**The December 10, 2019 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

### **Motion to adopt minutes of the January 06, 2020 Reorganization Meeting**

**Motion by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Ms. Houck

#### **Vote:**

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**The January 06, 2020 Reorganization Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

### **1. Motion to adopt ordinance placing a question on the April 28, 2020 Primary Ballot to amend Article VI Section 6:04 a; of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Mr. Griffith would like to amend his ordinance under the first whereas to include the wording “this ordinance shall become effective 15 days after adoption”.**

**Motion to amend Ordinance by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Amended**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (5-6)**

**Ordinance Failed**

### **2. Luzerne County Council Member Nominations and Appointments to:**

#### **2a. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Lee Ann McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Ms. Houck nominated:** Stephen J. Urban

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Ms. McDermott nominated:** Kendra Radle

**Second:** None

**Motion Fails Due to Lack of a Second**

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote (1 name):**

**Mr. Griffith:** Urban

**Mr. Haas:** Urban

**Ms. Houck:** Urban

**Ms. McDermott:** McDermott

**Mr. McGinley:** McDermott

**Mr. Perry:** McDermott

**Ms. Radle:** McDermott

**Ms. Saidman:** McDermott

**Mr. Schnee:** McDermott

**Mr. Stephen J. Urban:** Urban

**Mr. Vough:** McDermott

**Results:**

McDermott 7

Urban 4

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Lee Ann McDermott to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton**

**International Airport Bi-County Board by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (11-0)**

**2b. Retirement Board**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. McDermott nominated:** Kendra Radle

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Ms. Houck nominated:** Walter Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote (1 name):**

**Mr. Griffith:** Griffith

**Mr. Haas:** Griffith

**Ms. Houck:** Griffith

**Ms. McDermott:** Radle

**Mr. McGinley:** Radle

**Mr. Perry:** Radle

**Ms. Radle:** Radle

**Ms. Saidman:** Radle

**Mr. Schnee:** Radle

**Mr. Stephen J. Urban:** Griffith

**Mr. Vough:** Radle

**Results:**

Radle 7

Griffith 4

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Kendra M. Radle to the Retirement Board by:**

Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (11-0)**

**2c. Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services Program Advisory Board**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Stephen J. Urban

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt resolution appointing Stephen J. Urban to the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services Program Advisory Board:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (11-0)**

**2d. Luzerne Conservation District Board**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Stephen J. Urban nominated:** Walter Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Ms. Radle nominated:** Harry Haas

**Mr. Haas declined the nomination.**

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt resolution appointing Walter L. Griffith, Jr. to the Luzerne**

**Conservation District Board:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (11-0)**

**3. Nominations and Appointments to the Blighted Property Review Committee:**

**3a. Redevelopment Authority Representative**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Haas nominated:** Scott Linde

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt resolution appointing Scott Linde to the Blighted Property Review Committee:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (11-0)**

**ADDED ITEM**

**4. Motion to Introduce Ordinance Repealing Luzerne County Ordinance No. 2018-04**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Mr. Vough lost connection and was not on the phone.**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**Public Comment:**

**Richard Manta (Shavertown)** commented on the “Rain Tax” and the resolution.

**Brian Shiner (Kingston)** is disappointed with the six members who did not vote in favor of putting the Solicitor decision on the ballot. Mr. Shiner noted there was a NAACP event not listed on the County calendar. Mr. Shiner thinks that if a Council member is disconnected and does not reconnect their votes do not count and asked it be looked at.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton)** commented on the RACP resolution and the “Rain Tax” resolution.

**Chris Zomerfeld ((Plymouth)** spoke about WVSA and the “Rain Tax” and provided Council with a copy of his WVSA bill. He questioned what jurisdiction he is in regarding ambulance service and magistrates.

**Mr. Vough reconnected during Mr. Zomerfeld’s public comment.**

**John Newman (Nanticoke)** spoke about the “Rain Tax” resolution.

**Joe McCabe (Exeter)** commented on the “Rain Tax”.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg)** spoke about the “Rain Tax”, tax breaks and corruption. He suggested the LCTA come before Council and thanked Vito DeLuca.

**Richard Knapp (Nanticoke)** commented on the ballot ordinance and the “Rain Tax”.

**Mike Stash (Lehman Township)** commented on the “Rain Tax”.

**Charles Olah (Kingston)** commented on the “Rain Tax”.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:53PM**

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)