



Luzerne County Council
January 23, 2018
Luzerne County Court House
Council Meeting Room
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711

Minutes
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 Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Edward A. Brominski
Harry Haas
Linda McClosky Houck
Eugene Kelleher
Tim McGinley
Chris Perry
Sheila Saidman, Esq.
Robert Schnee
Stephen A. Urban
Jane Walsh Waitkus

Also Present

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager
Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Esq., Assistant County Solicitor
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Absent

Matthew Vough

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Mr. Crake announced there was an Executive Session prior to the Meeting regarding litigation matters namely Price v. Luzerne County Children and Youth and Savage v. Luzerne County.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

County Manager Pedri amended Item 2 Certification of County Funds, line 4, from -\$10,250.00 to +2,416.00.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Ms. Waitkus

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

The Voting Session Agenda is adopted (10-0)

Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) had questions regarding the settlement amount, the deductible and legal counsel costs for the Lombardo Settlement. Mr. Griffith commented on corporate tax breaks and would like Council to vote NO regarding the LERTA for Northpoint.

Warren Faust (Wilkes-Barre) spoke about local labor being involved in the construction of Northpoint's building in Hanover Township.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) stated he was opposed to the 7 years tax forgiveness. Mr. Shiner was supportive of tax forgiveness during the construction period but once the project is completed, taxes should start to be paid.

Ed Chesnovitch (Jackson Township) stated he was in agreement with Mr. Shiner regarding the LERTA for Northpoint.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Motion to approve minutes of January 09, 2018 meeting

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Ms. Waitkus

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Brominski and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Motion Passed (8-2)

The January 09, 2018 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted

2. Public Statement by D. Pedri Public Statement by C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager (Luzerne County Certification of Funds, Agricultural Preservation Program Certification of Funds for Clean and Green recouped interest on tax abatement)

3. Motion to adopt resolution approving the settlement of pending litigation in the matter of Francis Lombardo v. County of Luzerne, et al. Inc.

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Waitkus

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, and Ms. Waitkus

Two (2) Abstentions by Mr. Brominski and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Resolution is Adopted (8-0) with (2) Abstentions

4. Motion to adopt resolution providing tax exemption for new construction in deteriorated areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Kelleher

Roll Call Vote:

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

Three (3) No by Mr. Brominski, Mr. Haas, and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Resolution is Adopted (7-3)

5. Nominations and Appointments to Authorities, Boards, & Commissions:

5a. Motion to accept declination of appointment to Luzerne County Children & Youth Advisory Board (Richard Kramer)

Motion by: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

5b. Motion to adopt resolution appointing a member to the Luzerne County Planning Commission (4 year term expiring 12/31/2021)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Ms. Waitkus

Vote: Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

Nominations Open

Mr. Kelleher nominated: Sean Novak

Second: Mr. Schnee

Mr. Stephen A. Urban nominated: Richard Kramer

Second: Mr. Brominski

Motion to Close Nominations by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Kelleher

Vote: Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

Nominations Closed

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Brominski: Kramer

Mr. Haas: Novak

Ms. Houck: Novak

Mr. Kelleher: Novak

Mr. McGinley: Kramer

Mr. Perry: Novak

Ms. Saidman: Novak

Mr. Schnee: Novak

Mr. Urban: Kramer

Ms. Waitkus: Novak

Results:

Novak 7

Kramer 3

Roll Call Vote to adopt a resolution appointing Sean Novak to the Luzerne County Planning Commission for a term of 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2021:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Brominski, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) No by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Resolution is Adopted (9-1)

6. Motion to adopt resolution authorizing the execution of the Workforce Development Grant Application/Agreement

Motion by: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Stephen A. Urban, and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) No by Mr. Brominski

Resolution is Adopted (9-1)

Public Comment

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented on the Oath of Office and the need for policy and procedures regarding the same.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) wanted to know if the Judiciary raises that he read about in the paper were given through the merit process. Mr. Griffith stated that the approved Budget is not the one that is on the Website and the Position Budget is still not there and commented on Council Members using personal email versus County email.

Ed Chesnovitch (Jackson Township) spoke about the Oath of Office and would like to know at the next meeting who has them in and who does not.

Charles Olah (Kingston) feels that new businesses to the area should be asked about their labor rates and whether or not the rate includes benefits.

Ed Chesnovitch (Jackson Township) stated a member of the Flood Protection Authority put on their application they were a Realtor and they are not.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Mr. Haas

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 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