



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
January 24, 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 24, 2023 at 6:55 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
Kendra M. Radle (virtually)
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Brian Swetz, Acting County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor
Shannon Crake-Lapsansky, Assistant Solicitor (virtually)
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Attorney Skene announced Council held an Executive Session before the meeting to discuss Union Contracts.

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.

Cindy Murphy (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the 96 million in ARPA funds and the people.

Alyssa Fusaro (Luzerne) commented Verbally regarding powers of the Board of Elections and the Government Study Commission.

Vivian Kreidler-Lucina (Nescopeck) commented Verbally regarding ARPA money distribution to households and businesses.

Rick Morelli (Sugarloaf) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission and Charter changes.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Home Repair Programs, the Government Study Commission and Case Law.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission and Charter changes.

Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission, Charter amendments and the ARPA funding and process.

Bob Kadluboski (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS – CLERK OF COUNCIL

Motion to approve minutes of the January 10, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

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 10, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

OLD BUSINESSS

NONE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt resolution Requesting a Whole-Home Repairs Program Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

Motion by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Designating the County Manager, Director of Operations and/or the County Engineer as Authorized Signatory for Execution of Documents, Notices, Required Exhibits and Management for Multimodal Transportation Grant Reimbursement Agreements

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Thornton

Motion to amend resolution and remove the County Engineer as an Authorized Signatory by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Roll Call Vote to Adopt with Amendment:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Contract with Inservco Insurance Services, Incorporated as Third Party Administrator for Luzerne County's Worker's Compensation Insurance for Fiscal Years 2023- 2025

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Bienias

After discussion, Ms. Radle and Mr. Bienias withdrew their motions.

Mr. Lombardo asked for a first and a second.

Hearing none, the Resolution dies for Lack of a Motion.

4. Motion to adopt resolution for the County of Luzerne Agreeing to Implement Act 57 of 2022

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt 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. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

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

Motion Failed (3-8)

Ordinance Failed

6. Motions regarding Policies and Procedures for the Assessment and Evaluation of ARPA Fund Distribution

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to amend Policies and Procedures when there are multiple submissions. The language “only one submission per identifying information with the highest score” will be added.

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Mr. Thornton would like to make an amendment to add language which reflects the latest changes made by the U.S. Treasury regarding “ARPA Flex”.

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

After discussion, Mr. Thornton withdrew his motion.

Motion to amend Policies and Procedures to exclude ineligible projects from the 60 million by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to change item 4 language to “Determine minimum score to be considered for award for example 34.56 pts (or 46.07%)” by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Roll Call Vote to approve amended Policies and Procedures:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The amended Policies and Procedures are Approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the screen location, electronics vs. paper, the Election Integrity Grant ordinance, the start time of the election locations and entry times.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding a Lame Duck Council, deadlines for items on the Ballot, transparency and details of the Executive Session.

Mike Dantone (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the ARPA money and grants.

Jamie Walsh (Ross Township) commented Verbally regarding the 1.8 million for Sweet Valley Road and the amendments to the ARPA process.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Ballot dates and deadlines and ARPA Flex.

Vivian Kreidler-Lucina (Nescopeck) commented Verbally regarding the Whole Home Repairs Program and gave kudos to Greg Griffin.

Jessica Morgan (Dallas Borough) commented Verbally regarding transparency and the Election Bureau.

Diane Cowman (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding ARPA grants.

Vice Chair Lombardo read Public Comment Emails from:

Mike and Cindy Brannan (Wright Township)

Martin DiRoberto (Crestwood Township)

Walter and Robyn Kochan (Dallas Township)

Laura Pinero

Tammy Rittenhouse (Ross Township)

Nina Roppa (Kingston Township)

Carol Rosser (Sweet Valley)

Anne Schillinger (Rice Township)

Walter & Robyn Kochan (Dallas Township)

Cindy Brannan (Wright Township)

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. McGinley

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 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