



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
January 25, 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 25, 2022 at 6:14 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  
Robert Schnee  
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)  
Vito DeLuca, Esq., Assistant Solicitor (virtually)  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

## **Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations**

NONE

## **Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

**Mr. SJ Urban would like to remove Items 4,5,6,7 & 8 from the Voting Session agenda.**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Two (2) Yes by Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Eight (8) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Thornton

**Motion Failed (2-8)**

## **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

### **Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted**

**Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He states Council met in Executive Session from 5PM until approximately 5:50PM, received a report from Legal Counsel related to 2 issues, Watchilla vs Griffith et al, Case #9178 of 2020 and also Hazzouri vs West Pittston et al, Case #30-0118-CV 1982. It concluded at approximately 5:50PM.**

## **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.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding Stevens & Lee and a solicitor for Council.**

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding ARP final ruling, spending ARP funds and the new manager and the ballot question.**

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding better rates and IT projects.**

**Theodore John Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding ARP funds and the new manager.**

**Harry Haas (Kingston Borough) commented Verbally regarding** Joyce, Carmody & Moran and ARP projects and funding.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding** Small Business allocation, loans and repayment, the temporary County Manager and the new County Manager.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding** a Solicitor for Council, Small Businesses and ARP funds.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** Act 33 of 2021, Joyce, Carmody & Moran, and the ARP funds.

**Jess Morgan (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding** ARP funds and Non-Profits.

**Agenda Items**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the January 06, 2022 Reorganization Meeting**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**The January 06, 2022 Reorganization Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the January 11, 2022 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**The January 11, 2022 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Sales of Certain Parcels of Property Held in Repository by Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC Acting as the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Motion to Table by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

Two (2) Yes by Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Eight (8) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Thornton

**Motion to Table Failed (2-8)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion to Adopt Passed (9-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving an Agreement with Newport Township for the Luzerne County Treasurer to Collect Newport Township Taxes**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lescavage

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to introduce ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of a Proposal to Reduce the Interest Rate on the County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Nonelectoral Indebtedness of a General Obligation Note, Series of 2019, Originally Issued in the Principal Amount of \$33,305,000 for and Toward Financing a Capital Improvement Program, a Current Refunding Program and Paying the Costs of Issuing the Note; Providing for Maximum Interest Rate, Maximum Maturity Amounts and Place of Payment with Respect to the 2019 Note; Making a Covenant for the Payment of the Debt Service on the Amended and Restated Note; Providing for the Filing of any Required Documents; Authorizing the Execution of Documentation Memorializing the Change in Interest Rate and Delivery Thereof Including the Delivery of an Amended and Restated Note and Authorizing Other Necessary Action**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Law Firm of Joyce, Carmody, & Moran P.C. to be Added to Luzerne County's Approved Panel of Law Firms Providing Insurance Defense Services**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle and Mr. Thornton

Three (3) No by Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Passed (7-3)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Distribution of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Luzerne County Small Business and Non-Profit Organizations**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Motion to Table by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

**Motion to Table Passed (9-1)**

**Resolution is Tabled**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds on Various Information Technology Projects**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lescavage

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Motion to Table by:** Mr. SJ Urban

\*\*\*\*\*???????**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

Four (4) Yes by Ms. McDermott, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Six (6) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle and Mr. Schnee

**Motion to Table Failed (4-6)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

Two (2) No by Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion to Adopt Passed (8-2)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Make Repairs at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Inspection of the Water Street Bridge**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Motion to Table by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

**Motion to Table Passed (9-1)**

**Resolution is Tabled**

**9. Motion to adopt ordinance Placing a Question on the May 17, 2022, Primary Ballot to Amend Article VI Section 6:04 A; of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Mr. SJ Urban noted there was a typo and other items to be corrected in the Ordinance.**

**CORRECTIONS/AMENDMENTS**

- **Section 1 change “...not later than Tuesday February 1, 2022.” to “...not later than Thursday February 10, 2022.”**
- **Section 2 add “...directed TO give....**
- **Section 3 change “...items 1 through 3...” to “...items 1 and 2...”**

**Motion to Amend by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote on Amendments:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

**Motion to Amend Passed (9-1)**

**Ordinance is Amended**

**Motion to Postpone by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote to Postpone:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Thornton

Three (3) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion to Postpone Passed (7-3)**

**Ordinance is Postponed**

**10. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**11. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute the Sale of Two Parcels of County-Owned Property in Hanover Township to Robert Bilbow**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

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

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**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding** affordable housing, ARP funds and provided Council with a handout.

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the LCCF elevator and Retreat.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** himself and the new Council person.

**Theodore John Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding** submitted information and the investigation he requested.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the Repository vote, delinquent taxes and utilities, the ballot question, the Water Street Bridge, and out of state bidders and the Tax Claim Bureau.

**Jess Morgan (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding** outside consultants, the IT Department, ballot machines, the SHORE System and remote work.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:59 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)